Two women involved in Club C theft plead guilty. PAGE 5
Man in rape case found incompetent to stand trial. PAGE 11

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Guam also legalizes pot

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Guam became the second U.S. territory to legalize the recreational use of marijuana after Gov. Lou Deleon Guerrero signed Bill 32-35 yesterday, lifting years of prohibition and following in the CNMI's footsteps to allow the use of cannabis.

Deleon Guerrero

The Commonwealth legalized both recreational and medicinal use of

See GUAM on Page 4

House looks to act on cannabis amendment bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is looking to act on the cannabis amendment bill in the hopes of finally getting the new industry up and running in the CNMI. The House Cannabis Committee, chaired by Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), had already approved the proposed amendments in House Bill 21-13.

In an earlier interview, Maratita said her committee is just finishing up their report before submitting it to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan). "All the concerns were addressed and we fixed the amendments.

See HOUSE on Page 4

POLITICAL STATUS MEETING
The Marianas Political Status Commission sat down for the third time yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room, as they begin to seek out the public's opinion on the current relationship between the CNMI and U.S. federal government.
JON PEREZ

See story on Page 3

13 projects worth $186.2M for Tinian harbor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has 13 projects for the Tinian harbor with an estimated cost of $186.2 million, including plans to replace the deteriorating breakwater that will cost up to $160 million.

According to a CPA document called "Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports," vessels will not be able to dock and moor on Tinian if the breakwater is not repaired or replaced.

The breakwater, which is

» Breakwater needs replacement costing $160M

about 4,600 feet long, is the protective wall just outside of the seaport and the marina. It allows safe docking and mooring of vessels.

CPA said the project duration is four and a half years and

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Triple J Saipan Inc. donates $20,000 to CCA and Make-A-Wish.

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BUSINESS
Nissan's former Chairman Carlos Ghosn was arrested Thursday morning for a fourth time.

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OFF THE WALL
Toyota's basketball robot hardly ever misses a free throw or a 3-pointer.

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Local

DYS: 200 reports of child abuse in NMI in FY 2018

A total of 200 cases of alleged child abuse and neglect were reported to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services in fiscal year 2018 alone.

This sobering number was highlighted in yesterday's proclamation signing at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School in Kagman for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios signed the proclamation.

Of the 200, DYS reported that 185 cases were reported on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, and five on Rota, involving a total of 337 allegations that encompassed 49 physical abuse allegations, 45 sexual abuse allegations, 118 emotional abuse allegations, 59 negligence cases, and 66 other cases such as suicide, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, drug use, and minor sex trafficking.

This year's theme is "Protecting children is everyone's mission."

"DYS will continue to provide prevention programs and intervention services to highlight and build on family protective factors while also working toward reducing risk factors in its continued efforts to ultimately strengthen families in the CNMI," the proclamation stated.

DYS administrator Vivian Sablan reiterated this with *Saipan Tribune*. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Political status commission eyes public outreach that will also save some cash

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2nd Marianas Political Status Commission sat down for the third time yesterday, as they begin to seek out the public's opinion on the current relationship between the CNMI and U.S. federal government.

Its members also promised to be prudent with the money allocated to it by the Legislature.

Commission chair Pete Reyes said the Legislature had given the panel $150,000 that will be used to hire administrative staff and for its operations. The money would cover office expenses and airfare costs in flying members to and from the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, plus other expenses.

Reyes said they had also wrote Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) to seek for further assistance.

"We drafted a letter to Speaker Attao to…assist us by allowing Jessica Tomokane to work with us. We also finalized the letters requesting for resource personnel. We're going to be asking [them] if we could get some legal assistance," said Reyes. "This is so, that we can work within the budget. So, we don't need to be spending too much funds that may eventually run out."

Reyes

The commission will be reaching out to the public via information campaigns and public hearings to hear the sentiments of the members of the community.

Using other government resources like having the commission's meetings or public hearings aired live on television is being looked at save money. The commission will be holding two-day public hearings on Tinian and Rota, and will conduct hearings at the precinct level on Saipan.

"We already have the schedule for the public hearings. One day [on Tinian and Rota] is not enough. Some people may not show up the first day. So, we decided to go for two days," said Reyes.

"For Saipan, rather than going to every village, we decided—in the interest of savings—that we will conduct at the precinct level. Possibly, we'll also use the [House] chamber."

They might also use the television block channels of the Office of the Governor (Channel 14) and the Legislature (Channel 23) to reach a wider audience. "So, people can tune in on the channel and then participate in the discussion."

"We [commission] are going out to the public to seek their comments on either the current political status or the status quo, or the discussion on independence, or be a freely associated state. These are all available options, but we are not sure what the public can come up with."

"We wanted to make sure that the public participate and we want to know what they feel. Our education will be limited to the confines of the statute. That is to determine how the public feels about the current status and to hear if they have other comments… on a more specific issue."

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Probationer seeks to be allowed to travel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former notary public who is on federal probation filed yesterday a motion before the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow him to travel again to California for business purposes after the U.S. Probation Office denied his request for allegedly being argumentative and for buying a plane ticket prior to getting approval.

Liang Li, through counsel Bruce Berline, asked the court to allow him to travel to California from April 10, 2019, to no later than May 1, 2019, to buy automobile parts and other business-related supplies.

Li works at U-Save Car Rental, a business on Saipan that deals in automobiles.

Berline said the U.S. government has no objection to this.

Berline

U.S. probation officer assistant Juanette David-Atalig informed the court that she learned when Li reported to their office last April 1 that Li had already purchased an airline ticket before even submitting a travel request with the U.S. Probation Office.

She said she reminded Li about the instructions to first make a travel request and only when that request is approved can he buy his ticket.

Li explained to her that he already purchased a ticket because the airline seats were limited.

David-Atalig said Li then asked her why she was "being too difficult" and that Li became "contentious, argumentative, and refused to listen."

The following day, April 2, Li met with David-Atalig again in the U.S. Probation Office, and was told of the decision to deny his request to travel. Li was told he could ask the court for consideration.

The probation officer said Li became upset and difficult to talk with.

Last September, the court sentenced Li to two years of probation and six months in home detention, after he pleaded guilty to lying in a U.S. passport application.

In Li's request for travel, Berline said the home detention, along with electronic monitoring, will end tomorrow, Saturday.

Berline said the terms of probation/supervised release includes a provision preventing Li from leaving the CNMI without permission from the U.S. Probation Office or the court.

The lawyer said Li requested permission to travel from U.S. Probation Office but was denied as being untimely because he was allegedly argumentative and because he bought the ticket prior to getting travel approval.

Berline said the court previously allowed Li to travel to California last November during his period of home detention for similar business reasons.

Berline said Li returned from California without incident.

"This request is reasonable as it is in furtherance of defendant's employment," he said.

Li, 35, is a U.S. citizen.

GUAM

From Page 1

marijuana last year with the enactment of the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act.

Guam first legalized medicinal use but has yet to implement the regulations of the new law. The CNMI, on the other hand, has yet to formally organize the CNMI Cannabis Commission, almost seven months after Public Law 19-66 became law. The five-member CNMI Cannabis Commission is still awaiting the passage of House Bill 21-13, a companion bill to the marijuana law, before working on the regulations that would govern pot legislation.

In a press briefing yesterday at the Governor's Office in Adelup, Guam, Leon Guerrero said her decision to enact the bill "was made with an open mind."

Leon Guerrero, Guam's first female governor, had supported the lifting of the prohibition on cannabis during her campaign.

This development is considered welcome news for the CNMI as the Commonwealth can work in collaboration with its southern neighbor on the emerging cannabis industry in the region.

Now known as P.L. 35-5 or the Guam Cannabis Industry Act of 2019, introduced by Sen. Clynton E. Ridgell, this new law allows individuals who are over 21 years old to legally use marijuana. It would regulate the use, production, sale, and taxation of cannabis, with a Cannabis Control Board to be formed.

P.L. 35-5 also declassifies marijuana as a schedule 1 controlled substance in Guam and it would redefine references to it in the Guam Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Opposition remains, however, with the Archdiocese of Agana saying in a statement that drug problems in Guam have reached epic proportions. "Guam is already riddled with a drug problem of epidemic magnitude. We are saddened by the decision of Gov. Leon Guerrero to approve Bill 32 and sign it into law."

"We urge, as she said today, for all groups in our community to devote tremendous effort and attention to protecting our youth from this illicit drug, which we all agree many of them are already regularly ingesting," the archdiocese statement added.

The archdiocese added that the new law makes cannabis more accessible to the youth. "How can we expect our youth to obediently stay away from 'adult use cannabis' when it will multiply immensely throughout the island? When adults themselves will now be more widely abusing it other than for medicinal purposes? The war on keeping drugs and substance abuse away from our children just lost a major ground. And we are our own worst enemies."

Leon Guerrero, however, said setting the regulations within the law in the coming months should allay those concerns. "Nothing changes in the policies at the workplace. As a responsible business, we must continue the zero-tolerance policy."

"I say to the opponents that I appreciate their concerns and their concerns are also my concerns. ...A lot of their concerns were safety and increased access to children. They also had concerns about the workplace. It is very clear in this piece of legislation that you cannot use it in public places."

She added that it is the parents' role to keep marijuana out of the reach of children. "The government is here to assist and provide resources to help the parents. But parents must never abandon their responsibility and the protection of their children and nothing in this bill, now law, changes that."

"I think the more it strengthens the controls and now that we have it up from the black market industry, away from dealers that are predators on our children, we can better monitor and better control it. The next step is to educate the people and make them aware of what we can and what we cannot do. It is very clear that we cannot use it in public places."

This was echoed by the bill's author, Ridgell, who said in a statement: "This has been and continues to be a community issue, but the fight is not over yet. I invite the public to remain focused on continuing to provide input in the development of the rules and regulations by the Cannabis Control Board for safe, adult use cannabis.

P.L. 35-5 bans the use of marijuana in public unless given permission by the CCB; personal cultivation can be done in a private residence with a six-plant limit; and cannabis establishments are not allowed within 1,000 feet of any school (public or private), childcare centers, and public playgrounds and parks.

TINIAN

From Page 1

its funding source is pending.

The second biggest project for the Tinian harbor is the $12.6-million entrance channel dredging.

CPA said the original depth of the inner harbor was 28 feet, while the channel was at 35 feet.

Currently, CPA said, the depth at the inner harbor is 24 feet while the channel remains at 35 feet.

A dredging project is needed in order for the harbor to accommodate larger vessels.

The plan is to dredge the seaport to a depth of 40 feet. The dredging will allow larger vessels to come in and increase activity at the seaport.

Being able to harbor larger vessels will not only benefit the ports agency, but the economy of Tinian as well, CPA said.

A draft of 40 feet should be sufficient to accommodate larger commercial and military vessels to call port and service the island, CPA dded.

The project duration is five years and its funding source is pending.

The other projects are the $300,000 fire hydrant system at the seaport, the $250,000 dock lighting, the $310,000 perimeter fence replacement, the $2.5-million fender/bollard replacement, the $2-million concrete cap reconstruction and sheetpile installation, the $2-million roll-on, roll-off ramp, the $5-million center finger pier removal, the $300,000 cargo area expansion, the $300,000 trailer park, boat wash station and storage, the $300,000 public launch ramp, and $300,000 for public restrooms.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning document outlines what the CPA staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue over the next four years.

Tenorio is inviting input and dialogue from policy makers and industry partners such as the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the NMI, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, to help fine-tune their action plan.

HOUSE

From Page 1

So, we're going to act on it in our next session."

Maratita's committee is tasked to discuss and study all matters pertaining to the new cannabis industry in the CNMI—including its effects on the community, regulations, revenue collection, and consumer protection.

Attao is looking to call a session on April 15 for the House to take up revenue-generating measures, as the government's first quarter projection is short by 4.7 percent.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had asked them to act on H.B. 21-13, which aims to improve the CNMI's existing cannabis law, so that it could be another source of revenues for the CNMI government.

The CNMI Cannabis Commission, once H.B. 21-13 passes and is signed into law by Torres, would finally get them officially organized to formulate the regulations that would guide the cannabis industry in the Commonwealth.

The CNMI is also closely monitoring the situation in Guam after Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero signed Bill 32, which was passed by the Guam Legislature with an 8-7 vote last week, into law yesterday that legalizes the recreational use of marijuana. Guam residents voted to allow the medicinal use of cannabis in 2014.

Attao said the result of the vote was close. "Guam has already an existing law for medicinal purposes but this is very new [recreational use]. I guess we're going to see what's next for them. We're going to see what Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero decides on this legislation."

The House unanimously voted to pass the then-Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 with only one abstention, Maratita, who now chairs the Cannabis Committee.

"Representative Maratita…brings a different perspective," said Attao.

Sensible CNMI's support

Local pro-cannabis group Sensible CNMI, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, said they also support Guam's efforts to legalize recreational marijuana use as the existing prohibition had denied its residents cannabis as an effective and safe alternative in treating debilitating conditions.

"It is our hope that the leadership of Guam will continue to move to replace the ineffective and destructive cannabis prohibition policy, which has no controls over place of sale, product safety protocols, and age restrictions, and replace it with a regulation and taxation model," said Sensible CNMI in a statement.

"By moving to allow for the personal use of cannabis by adults, Guam will be better able to protect the youth through a system of controls and regulations, as well as develop community programs with tax dollars earned through the sale of cannabis products, while providing safe and affordable access to cannabis for those that may benefit from cannabis as a medicine."

They added that Guam's citizens deserve a better and sensible approach to cannabis. "Regardless of how some of Guam's citizens feel about the personal use of cannabis, it is clear that criminalizing and stigmatizing Guam's youth and adults with arrests and convictions that stay with them for life has not worked to reduce the availability of cannabis on island. Guam's citizens deserve an approach that better protects public health and safety."

The non-profit group added that the enforcement of the CNMI's current marijuana laws also had a devastating effect on Guam's communities. "Efforts to suppress cannabis supplies and consumption on island have only served to artificially inflate the value of cannabis—"well above that of gold, by weight, pushing people toward cheaper, more dangerous drugs, such as alcohol, prescription drugs, and methamphetamine, which has become widely available."

Two women involved in Club C theft plead guilty

By KIMBERLY A BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Two women involved in the theft of about $3,200 worth of promotional vouchers from Club C have pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement and are now awaiting their sentence.

Alvagene Delos Santos and Cherie Delos Santos, who are accused of conspiring to rob the Club C gaming establishment in Chalan Kanoa of about $3,200 worth of promotional vouchers in 2018, pleaded guilty last Wednesday before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho.

Both women were facing two charges: conspiracy to commit theft and theft. They pleaded guilty to the theft charge only; the conspiracy to commit theft charge was dropped as part of the plea agreement.

The two women, who went to court out of custody, were remanded back to the Department of Corrections to await their sentencing hearing.

Camacho scheduled both women to appear before the court for sentencing on April 12, 2019 at 9am.

During the change of plea hearing, both women admitted their roles in the theft and also confessed to splitting about $7,000 among themselves.

Alvagene told the court that, as an employee of the establishment, she printed over $3,200 worth of promo vouchers, contacted Cherie to come by the gaming establishment, and gave her the printed vouchers to play and cash out.

The only way to get promo vouchers is to be selected as a raffle winner during one of Club C's raffle drawings.

Cherie told the court that she was contacted by Alvagene to meet her at the Club C gaming establishment and she'd give her vouchers to play and they could split the winnings.

Cherie told the court that she played the vouchers, cashed out her winnings of over $7,000, and split the money between herself and Alvagene.

The women will serve five years, all suspended except for zero or one year.

Alvagene and Cherie will also pay restitution to Club C of $6,156.50 after their probation of three years.

Alvagene is represented by lawyer Victorino Torres, while Cherie is represented by chief public defender Doug Hartig. Acting chief prosecutor Heather Barcinas represented the government.

The court did not indicate if both women are related.

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Joeten commits as star sponsor of #MMAC2019

Joeten celebrates its 70th anniversary of both business and philanthropy in the Marianas this year. The Joeten Daidai Foundation, its charitable arm, announced its commitment to the 2019 Marianas March Against Cancer as a star sponsor with a $10,000 donation. Joeten has been a sponsor since the MMAC's inception.

Patty Palacios of the Joeten Daidai Foundation said, "This foundation was established through the vision of the late businessman, Jose C. Tenorio "Joeten," and his wife, the late Soledad T. Tenorio, "Daidai," to fulfill their mission of continuously giving back to the community time and time again, whether through religious, educational or charitable means. We recognize that, without Joeten's diligent staff, without our island and all of its people, we simply wouldn't exist today."

The donation to MMAC is made possible through the foundation's generous affiliates such as Saipan Stevedore Co., Saipan Shipping Co., Pacifica Insurance, other notable business partners, as well as many generous individuals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Joeten Daidai Foundation, the charitable arm of the Joeten group of companies, has commited to the 2019 Marianas March Against Cancer as a star sponsor with a $10,000 donation.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, co-chair of the MMAC Committee, said, "MMAC is exponentially blessed to have Joeten's support. The company has been one of our most committed business partners throughout the years, serving MMAC since it began 17 years ago. Despite the continued state of recovery and the economic hardship our island is facing, Joeten has continued to make the battle against cancer a priority. We appreciate Joeten's service-driven, people-driven mindset, and thank them for choosing to keep the fight going."

"This is a very meaningful cause for all of us. We all know at least one person whose life has been affected by cancer, whether that person lost the battle, is currently fighting it or is a survivor. We hope that our efforts and the efforts of others will truly make a difference in people's' lives," Palacios added.

MMAC Committee co-chair Carline Sablan added: "This commitment from the Joeten Daidai Foundation is more than just sponsorship of the event, but rather support for our local cancer community. We thank the foundation for stepping up to the chance to do something positive in the face of such a devastating disease. The foundation's generosity and support of MMAC make it a true leader in the CNMI community."

#MMAC2019 will be on May 3-4 at the Commonwealth Ports Authority field from 6pm to 6am. ***(PR)***

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$44K for Karidat from MVA's #MarianasSTRONG campaign

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, fourth from right, turns over $44,000 in donations to Karidat Social Services on March 27, 2019, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan. The donations were collected from tourism partners, visitors, and residents to aid in Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts. From left are MVA accountant Shaunn Manglona, Karidat's Calvani Guerrero, executive director Lauri Ogumoro, Emy Camacho, Rose Masayos, Concepcion, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, Karidat's Angel Phillips, and MVA executive administrative assistant Janica Lizama. MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority turned over $44,000 to Karidat Social Services last March 27, the balance of donations collected by the tourism office in the Mariana and abroad under its #MarianasSTRONG campaign following Super Typhoon Yutu.

The donations will be used by the non-profit organization in its continuing disaster recovery services to the community.

"Karidat is very grateful for this generous donation that will be used to help make families whole following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu. For some families it will take years to fully recover," said Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro.

"Karidat is blessed to have a strong partnership with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and non-profit agencies who are now helping us to implement the VALOR program, which was first initiated in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria," she added. "VALOR, which stands for Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repairs, utilizes the services of off-island non-profit voluntary agencies, such as the Mennonite Disaster Service, Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Adventist Disaster Services and the United Methodist Committee on Recovery who will be on island over the next couple of months, to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary, and secure. This generous donation through tourists visiting our islands and our tourism community, will go a long way toward the recovery needs of our island home. On behalf of the Karidat board of directors and the individuals and families still recovering for [Super] Typhoon Yutu we appreciate the efforts of the Marianas Visitor Authority for organizing this #MarianasSTRONG fundraising campaign for Karidat. Thank you!"

The donation includes nearly $30,000 donated by Skymark Airlines, the Japanese air carrier that inaugurated direct flights to the Marianas on April 22, 2019, and nearly $10,000 donated by Access, Inc., the MVA's representative office in Japan.

Additional donors include Honorary Tourism Ambassador Toshio Matsumura, Koenji Awadori Association, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Star Sands Plaza, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Aiko's Ramen, Joeten Latte Café Garapan, Joeten Shopping Center Garapan, Country House Restaurant, Moby Dick, other donations in Japan, and donations made at the MVA office or at the #MarianasSTRONG Year-end Celebration and Yutu 5K Fun Run.

"We are extremely grateful to our tourism partners, as well as our generous visitors and residents, for the many contributions made that the MVA is able to pass on to the community through Karidat," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "While tourists are back and enjoying the beautiful Marianas again, we know that there are also members of our community still struggling with home repairs, rebuilding, and other needs. We appreciate and support the continued hard work of Karidat in helping our community heal."

Earlier this year, the Korean Marianas Tourism Club, composed of key Korean travel partners, also donated $10,000 to Karidat. Contributing companies were Jeju Air, Tour 2000, Sejoong Tour, Very Good Tour, Tide Square, SM Town Travel, KRT, and Naeil Tour. *(MVA)*

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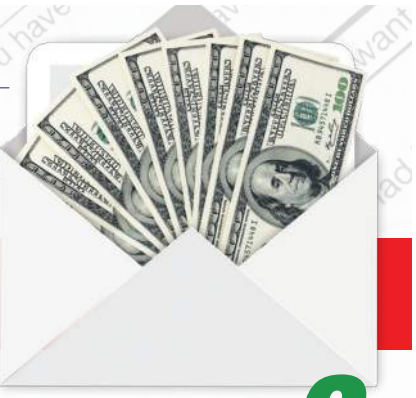

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Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!

#1 Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.

#2 Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.

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Chalan Monsignor Guerrero San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-235-6032 | Fax: 670-235-6040

WE ARE MOVING!
In order to better serve you, our customers, we are moving our office.
Effective May 01, 2019 we will be conveniently located at:

Town House Center, Beach Road
Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan MP 96950

MVA joins Malaysian travel fair

Targeting visa-free travelers in a nearby and affluent country, the Marianas Visitors Authority joined the Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents Fair last March 15-17, 2019, in Kaula Lumpur.

The MATTA Fair is a biannual travel fair, with 272 organizations exhibiting at the Putra World Trade Centre. Participants included travel and tour agencies, national tourism organizations, hotels, resorts, theme parks, cruises and other businesses. An estimated 110,000 visitors attended the event.

This was MVA's first time to participate in the MATTA Fair. The agency shared information about Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, distributed brochures, and answered questions. Those who scanned the QR code provided and then "liked" and shared the MVA's Facebook page received an MVA-branded fan and other MVA collateral items. Concepcion also paid a courtesy call on travel agents at the fair.

The next MATTA Fair will be in September 2019. ***(MVA)***

Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Date: APRIL 2, 2019
PAY TO THE ORDER OF AMERICAN RED CROSS
$ 3,000.00
33RD ANNUAL AMERICAN RED CROSS WALKATHON

RED CROSS SUPPORTERS

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donates $3,000 to the 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon. From left, TanHolding's Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan; Carline Sablan, TanHoldings community relations director; John Hirsh, American Red Cross executive director; Merlie Tolentino, TSL Foundation executive director; Jean Sablan, American Red Cross honorary board member; J.D. Tenorio, American Red Cross disaster program manager; and Melinda Naputi, TSL Foundation administrative officer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Date: APRIL 03, 2019
PAY TO THE ORDER OF AMERICAN RED CROSS
$ 7,000.00
SEVEN THOUSAND & 00/100 DOLLARS
Bank of Hawaii
FOR LIVE KOKUA DONATION
BANK OF HAWAII

Bank of Hawaii employees donate $7,000 to the American Red Cross through their Live Kokua Giving Campaign. The $7,000 comes from BOH employee giving. Photo shows American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh accepting the check from Bank of Hawaii branch manager Rose Sumor and staff. Also in photo is American Red Cross supporter Jose D. Tenorio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How To Do Business With The Federal Government

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

- **DUNS Number**
- **SAM Registration**

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS
Supported by:

GuamPTAC

Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4339
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How To Obtain a HUBZone Certification

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. Did you know that the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) is a HUBZone? The Small Business Administration (SBA) Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program helps small business in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. Learn how your company could benefit from the program.

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS
Supported by:

GuamPTAC

Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4340
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

$100K bail for ex-DETF informant for 'ice' possession

A bail of $100,000 has been set for a former informant of the Drug Enforcement Task Force who has been caught in possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Gordon Aldan Castro, 30, was arrested for alleged "ice" possession and trafficking following a sting operation the task force staged back in January.

Castro is a former task force informant and cooperating source who has since failed to contact law enforcers.

Even though he is not a flight risk, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho retained Castro's cash bail at $100,000 last Thursday because he has a prior conviction.

Camacho scheduled Castro's preliminary hearing today and his arraignment is scheduled for April 8, 2019.

In a declaration of probable case, the CNMI government asked the Superior Court to unseal the documents relating to Castro's case, revoke the stipulation releasing him on his own recognizance, and re-impose the $100,000 cash bail.

Castro has since been remanded back to the Department of Corrections following his arrest last March 27.

Castro used to be a confidential informant but was no longer communicating with the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, according to the government.

When Castro was first arrested last Feb. 27, he waived his constitutional rights and offered to assist as a confidential informant, the government said.

The government then asked the court to file under seal all documents and pleadings filed in connection with Castro's case to protect the confidentiality and integrity of ongoing drug or narcotic investigations.

According to court information, the task force conducted a "buy-walk" operations to catch Castro in the act. The operation was conducted on Jan 23, 2019.

During the organized operation, a DETF cooperating source identified Castro as the individual who sold him narcotics worth $50. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Woman who allegedly bit child will be made to undergo psych evaluation

A woman who was arrested back in 2018 for allegedly biting and beating a child is set to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

During a status conference Wednesday, Heather Barcinas, who represented the government, told Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho that the prosecution will push forward with psychiatric evaluation for Vicenta Veronica Igisomar, the guardian of a then-3-year-old whom she allegedly bit and beat with a wooden stick.

According to Barcinas, a psychiatric expert is scheduled to fly in on either the first or second week of May to do the evaluation.

Camacho set a status conference for July 17, 2019, at 9am in order to discuss the results of the evaluation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the 3-year-old girl reportedly suffered multiple injuries after Igisomar, allegedly bit her and hit her with a wooden backscratcher and large glass cup at their home in Chalan Kanoa in July 2018.

According to a physician at the Commonwealth Health Center, the right side of the girl's head had a puncture wound, and that she had red and bruising underneath all fingernails, and redness and bruising on both large toes.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in a report that she was called on the night of July 12, 2018, about a child abuse incident and she proceeded to CHC emergency room where she met with a police officer.

Aguon said the officer informed her that she had a reason to believe that the 3-year-old girl had been physically abused by her guardian, Igisomar, and that it was the biological parents who discovered the abuse.

The officer stated that Igisomar fled the scene before his arrival and that the girl was transported to CHC for further treatment.

Aguon said the girl's mother stated that she and her husband were walking by Igisomar's residence when they heard a little girl's scream and cry.

The parents went to the house and the mother asked Igisomar, who has been the guardian for the child for over a year, if her daughter is fine.

Igisomar stated that she spanked the girl with a backscratcher and that the mother can take her back if she wants.

The mother observed that her daughter was crying and bleeding on both her toes and that she had a cut on her head.

The mother then called 911.

Aguon said the child stated that Igisomar bit all of her fingers and big toes.

The child said Igisomar also hit her back with a wooden scratcher and hit her head with a large glass cup.

Igisomar also allegedly spread the girl's legs hard while the child was lying down on the bed. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

AG's Cup contest on May 3

The Attorney General announced yesterday that the 35th Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held on May 3, at 9:30am at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

Eight high schools will be participating in this year's competition: Dr. Rita Inos High School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian High School, and Kagman High School.

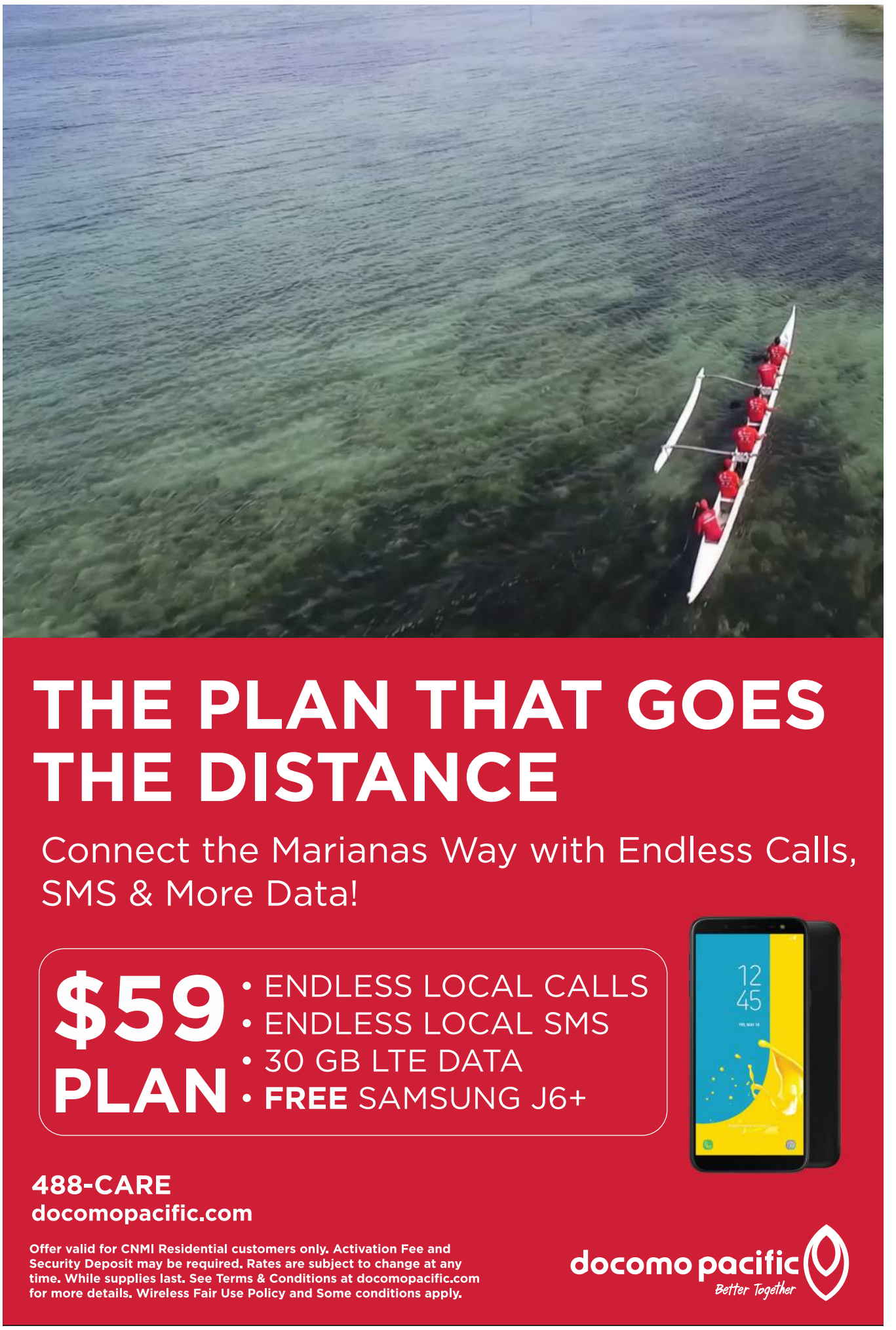
"The AG's Cup Speech Competition provides the CNMI's high school students with the opportunity to research an issue that affects the Commonwealth, form a position on the issue, and showcase their voice and passion on the topic," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "The AG's Cup Steering Committee have been meeting and working diligently in preparation for this event and we are delighted to have eight high schools join us this year."

This year's topic focuses on the legalization of cannabis in the Commonwealth. The issue presented in this year's competition is: Is the passage of Public Law 20-66, also known as the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, a cure or a curse for the Commonwealth? Will it help or hurt the CNMI in the short-term or the long-term?

In preparing their speech, the students are asked to consider the following: 1) Cannabis is still illegal federally; discuss how this could affect production and consumption of cannabis in the CNMI. How has it affected production and consumption in other jurisdictions? 2) What types of regulatory systems have been developed in other jurisdictions that allow recreational cannabis use? 3) What have been the positives and negatives associated with recreational cannabis use in jurisdictions that have legalized its use?

"The passing of Public Law 20-66 on Sept. 21, 2018, made for a historic yet contentious topic in the CNMI," said Manibusan. "The topic is of great significance for the students to provide objective analysis and research to decision makers on cannabis policy that will have a significant impact on our community.

The Office of the Attorney General welcomes the public to attend the event and support the students of the CNMI. For more information on the Speech Competition, contact Keola Taisacan at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division at 237-7600. ***(PR)***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Connect the Marianas Way with Endless Calls, SMS & More Data!
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• ENDLESS LOCAL SMS
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• FREE SAMSUNG J6+
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Better Together

Scheduled power interruptions

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

■ **Monday, April 8, 2019 — 8am to1pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: San Antonio
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Kacho Avenue
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Monday, April 8, 2019 — 8am to1pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: As Gonno • Power service area(s) affected: Flame Tree Road
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace four wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Monday, April 8, 2019 — 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Obyan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 8am to1pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Chalan Kanoa
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Sunset Drive
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 —8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Obyan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Wednesday, April 10, 2019 — 8am to4pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Dandan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Thursday, April 11, 2019 — 8am to 4pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Dandan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Friday, April 12, 2019 — 8am to 4pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Dandan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Saturday, April 13, 2019 — 8am to 4pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: As Terlaje and Susupe
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: As Terlaje Booster Tank
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6 and W-8
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Sunday, April 14, 2019 — 8am to 4pm**
- ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❏ Village location: Dandan
- ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 70 wooden poles with concrete ones.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW19-RFP-002

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SUGAR DOCK FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for **Architectural-Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Sugar Dock Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 28, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 16, 2019**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 26, 2019.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW19-RFP-002**". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 10, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 21, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	026 K 35	Holiday Dr., Dandan, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	$	60,000.00
LOT NO.:	002 G 245	Granada Dr., Kagman II, Saipan	MINIMUM BID :	$	20,000.00
LOT NO.:	005 I 514	Ahu Dr., Koblerville, Saipan	MINIMUM BID:	$	50,000.00
LOT NO.:	008 T 239	Marpo Heights, Tinian	MINIMUM BID:	$	73,000.00
LOT NO.:	107 T 139	Carolinas Heights, Tinian	MINIMUM BID:	$	35,000.00
LOT NO.:	347 R 95	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	59,000.00
LOT NO.:	330 R 293	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	42,000.00
LOT NO.:	347 R 164	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	46,000.00
LOT NO.:	330 R 149	Sinapalo, Rota	MINIMUM BID:	$	49,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on April 8, 2019, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for purchase/lease on each property shall be $ (please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
   a. Credit card payments totaling $1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged and additional Three (3)% fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
8. Lease option. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following terms and conditions:
   a. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be fifty-five (55) years.
   b. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
      i. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
      ii. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
      iii. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
      iv. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2019.

S/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Man in rape case found incompetent to stand trial

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of four men who are being accused of raping a woman has been found incompetent to stand trial due to what is being described as his "untreatable intellectual disorder."

This came about after the Superior Court reviewed the mental evaluation reports of two different psychiatric experts who had evaluated Christopher Saimon, 38.

With this, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio absolved Saimon of two counts of sexual assault in the second-degree.

Both experts, Dr. Martin Blinder, who was appointed by the defense, and Dr. Dennis Donovan, who was appointed by the prosecution, deemed Saimon incompetent to stand trial "and it is unlikely for him to regain competence because of his lifelong untreatable intellectual disorder." The disorder was not specified.

"Based on the reports, the experts opined that there was no substantial likelihood that [Saimon] would regain his competence due to his lifelong and untreatable intellectual disorder," according to Kim-Tenorio's official dismissal order

Citing the large amount of evidence, Kim-Tenorio said that Saimon lacks "sufficient present ability to consult with his lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding, and lacks a rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings against him."

Kim-Tenorio set the jury trial for the three remaining defendants for Jan. 13, 2020. Pre-trial conference is on Dec. 3, 2019, at 1:30pm.

Romeo Saimon is represented by David Banes, while Joseph Saimon is represented by Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig.

Of the three remaining defendants, Richmond Keybond remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections. He is represented by Dennis Nie.

The amended information charged Joseph Saimon with sexual assault in the first degree, and assault and battery, while Romeo Saimon and Keybond were each charged with two counts of sexual assault in the second degree.

$853.5K released for PSTF

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary of Insular and Internal Affairs Douglas W. Domenech has authorized the payment of $853,590 in fiscal year 2019 technical assistance funding for the Prior Service Trust Fund.

The U.S. government continues to meet its commitment and financial support to beneficiaries from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

Prior Service beneficiaries are retirees and survivors who rely on monthly payments ranging from $54 to over $150 to pay for medicine, food, kerosene and other basic needs. ***(PR)***

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* Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm (Last Order: 8:00pm)
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* All you can eat and drink!
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Triple J donates fun run proceeds to two beneficiaries

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Triple J Saipan Inc. has donated the proceeds of its 2nd Annual Family Bubble Color Fun Run/Walk to two beneficiaries: the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam/CNMI Chapter.

Triple J officials handed two checks totaling $20,000 yesterday to CCA executive director Juan Babauta and Make-A-Wish Foundation board member Kanae Quinn. Each organization got $10,000 each.

Babauta said the money would go to the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer.

"On behalf of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the March Against Cancer board of directors, we are greatly appreciative of the generous donation from Triple J Saipan. The proceeds donated will help those who bear the burden of battling cancer and cancer-related illnesses and help fund awareness and prevention programs within our communities," he said.

MMAC board member Bobby Cruz added that, although there was every excuse to cancel the March, including ongoing recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, donations from sponsors like Triple J is making it possible to move forward with the event.

"Despite the strife and struggle Super Typhoon Yutu caused, you guys are giving us the opportunity to keep the fight against cancer going," he said.

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
P.O. Box 500487, Saipan, MP 96950
Date 3 APRIL 2019
COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION $10,000
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
TRIPLE J 5K BUBBLE COLOR RUN
TRIPLE J SAIPAN

Check holders Mike Sablan, left, Triple J Enterprises Inc., Bo Palacios, March Against Cancer board member, center, and Robert H. Jones, board chairman, Triple J Enterprises, Inc. are joined by other anti-cancer advocates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
P.O. Box 500487, Saipan, MP 96950
Date 3 APRIL 2019
MAKE-A-WISH® FOUNDATION CNMI $10,000
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
TRIPLE J 5K BUBBLE COLOR RUN
TRIPLE J SAIPAN

Check holders Mike Sablan, left, Triple J Enterprises Inc.; Kanae Quinn, Make-A-Wish Foundation board member; Jay Santos, Make-A-Wish Foundation board member and general manager of Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Truckload Store; and Robert H. Jones, chairman of the Board, Triple J Enterprises, Inc. are joined by Triple J's executive team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quinn said the foundation is currently working on granting the wish of a child who attends Hopwood Middle School and Triple J's donation would go toward making his wish come true.

Robert H. Jones, board chair of Triple J Enterprises Inc., said it was rewarding "to see the successes of a group effort comprised of industry leaders within the local community."

He gave thanks to "our business partners, event sponsors, and the volunteers who gave of their time—all of which ensured another successful Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk. We look forward to an even bigger event next year."

The 2nd Annual Triple J Family Bubble Color Fun Run/Walk was held last March 3 and had over 1,200 runners.

Maria Valentina Haberman, Triple J Saipan marketing manager, said they have partnered with Chacha Ocean View Middle School—as the Triple J *Lancherus*—to raise funds for March Against Cancer fundraiser.

"The Triple J Restaurant Group [composed] of the Surf Club Saipan Restaurant, Capricciosa, and Tony Roma's offer $1 of every iced tea purchase, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. offers $1 from every Strawberry Speckled Lemonade purchase, and Triple J Motors will donate $25 from every new car purchase to the CCA. We encourage the community to join our Triple J *Lancherus* team and support the Commonwealth Cancer Association through MMAC 2019," she said.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-002

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 5 NEW VEHICLES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of 5 New Vehicles (4 each Delivered to the NMC-CREES Main Office on Saipan and 1 each Delivered to NMC-CREES Station on Tinian).

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Friday, March 15th between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via email to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@arianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 15, 2019, CNMI date and time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 19-002 packet attention Mr. Robert Suzuki at email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2018-31100 (Regular) / Smith Lever Act section 3b & 3c, award#2015-41100.

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Robert Suzuki
Acting Procurement & Property Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean of CREES

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2019-004
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: May 09, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Consulting Services

Proposal package will be available on April 05, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays or you may obtain the proposal package online at www.nmhcgov.net "Public Notice/Announcements" subtitle "Request for Proposal".

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on April 25, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/7689; (670)483-9447; or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Joaquim S. Reyes, Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-RHC-012

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 18, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM"
ROTA HEALTH CENTER
LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-SYSTEMS OF CARE-010

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2019 TIME: 03:00PM

"WRAPAROUND PROCESS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHC DIRECTOR OF P&S

United Airlines' amenity kits offer luxury skincare line

GUAM—According to the *Huffington Post*, there comes a time in every skin care obsessive's life when he or she discovers the life-changing magic that is Sunday Riley. United Airlines customers now have an opportunity to experience Sunday Riley products made exclusively for the global traveler with the upcoming roll-out of new amenity kits featuring what is frequently described as a cult beauty brand. This new collection will begin its roll-out later this month on board and in United Polaris lounges and United Club locations with shower facilities.

Using employee and customer research, United selected award-winning Sunday Riley as its new skincare partner based on the brand being a pioneer in green technology and high-performance skincare, with a philosophy that skincare is a vital extension of self-care and overall wellness for today's global traveler. Combined with United's industry-leading Polaris business class experience, this partnership provides customers with the amenities needed to feel refreshed while traveling.

Headquartered in Houston, which is one of United's largest hub markets and where Sunday Riley herself was born and raised, her eponymous brand is recognized as a high-performance skincare line with formulations that are powered by science and balanced by botanicals to provide visible, fast results.

"Sunday and her team really took the time to understand how travel and the aircraft environment affects our customers and formulated an in-flight remedy that complements their journey with United from beginning to end. By elevating the skincare products offered on our planes and in our lounges, we can continue to lift the experience customers have when traveling with United," said United's vice president of marketing Mark Krolick. "We are thrilled to be working with a trailblazing businesswoman and entrepreneur who is making a global impact from our Houston hub."

"Being a part of the United experience gives us the opportunity to be with our customers wherever they go. We love being able to elevate the amenity offering and connect with an entirely new audience as they get to pamper themselves in the air. With these new exclusive products, customers around the world can feel and look their best while on their journey," said Sunday Riley, founder and CEO.

Sunday Riley onboard

United will offer three cabin-specific amenity kits featuring Sunday Riley products:

■ **United Polaris business class:** Amenity kit will feature four Sunday Riley products: a lip balm with pomegranate seed oil and shea butter to boost hydration; a face cream with a blend of botanicals to hydrate and soothe skin in-flight; hand cream containing a nourishing blend of shea butter, cocoa butter and rose hip seed oil; and a facial cleansing cloth containing peppermint extract to balance oil and invigorate skin.

■ **United Premium Plus:** Amenity kit will include the lip balm and hand cream.

■ **United premium transcontinental:** Amenity kit will include the lip balm.

Premium cabin lavatories on dozens of aircraft in United's fleet will also offer a face mist and hand cream formulated by Sunday Riley, as well as other new products, like the Garment Groom 2-1 spot cleaner and fabric freshener created by Murchison-Hume.

United Clubs and lounges

United Polaris lounges, Arrivals lounges and United Clubs with shower facilities across the system will also feature products formulated by Sunday Riley, helping to create an elevated lounge-to-landing experience. Lounge and club products will feature an invigorating hand wash with cucumber and green tea extracts to leave skin clean and refreshed; a hydrating shampoo that features cucumber extract and rosehip seed oil to help strengthen and moisturize hair; a replenishing conditioner that contains green tea extract and pomegranate seed oil to help soften and revitalize hair; a refreshing body wash with cucumber and green tea extracts which hydrates and soothes skin; and a nourishing hand and body moisturizer with shea and cocoa seed butters to deeply hydrate and nourish skin.

Sunday Riley and MileagePlus

United will offer members of its MileagePlus program the unique opportunity to use their award miles to bid on a London getaway complete with a visit to Hershesons salon, where customers can experience a signature Sunday Riley facial and more with airfare provided courtesy of United. Bid now at https://exclusives.mileageplus.com/sundayriley

Together, United Airlines and United Express operate approximately 4,800 flights a day to 353 airports across five continents. In 2018, United and United Express operated more than 1.7 million flights carrying more than 158 million customers. For more information, visit united.com. ***(PR)***

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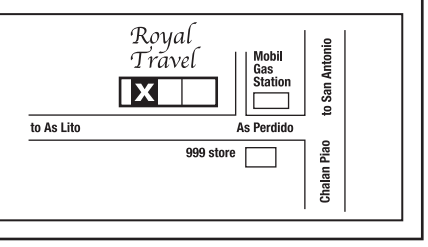

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The tragic loss of Nipsey Hussle—and so many others

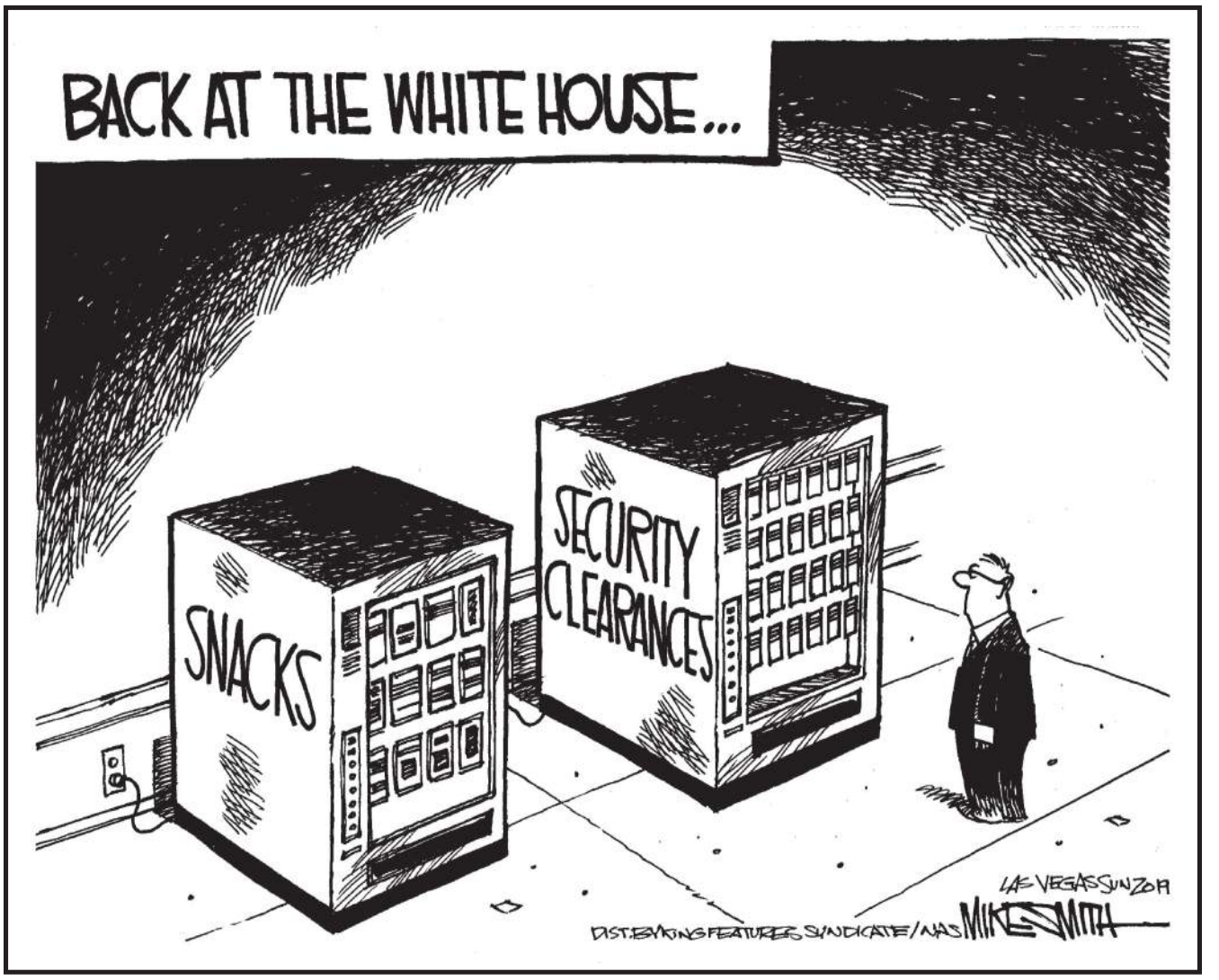
AP

In this March 29, 2018, file photo, rapper Nipsey Hussle watches an NBA basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the Milwaukee Bucks in Oakland, Calif.

The killing of rapper Nipsey Hussle on Sunday afternoon was especially heartbreaking because of his journey _ from his participation in Los Angeles street gang life in his young adulthood to musical and commercial success and ultimately leadership in the fight against violence. He emerged, he created, he invested in his neighborhood, and he led, only to be shot dead in the bright afternoon outside his own clothing store in what police suspect was a gang killing.

Born Ermias Davidson Asghedom, Hussle earned the deep respect of other artists, many of whom paid him tribute in the aftermath of the killing. That's as it should be, but in mourning his death and decrying the killing, it's essential to remember that too many young men whose names are known only to their families and friends are lost to violence before they have a chance to make their own mark in the world. Some of the most gifted hip-hop artists have come from the streets of South Los Angeles and used their considerable talents to document and comment upon a life that a modern, wealthy society like our own should not countenance. Young African Ameri-

See NIPSEY on Next Page



The real problem with student debt

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

Since the White House announced its plan to address student debt on March 11, 2019, commentaries, both pro and con, are endless. However, personal responsibility is rarely, if ever, mentioned. The creators of student debt—students, lenders, officials (elected and appointed) and universities—are co-contributors to the crisis. Blame is omnipresent, but that does not liberate the student's personal responsibility for assuming debt or the university's complicity in allowing it. Transparency trumps everything.

Absolution of personal responsibility in college borrowing undermines the value of higher education. Social and political pressure convinces students and families that accumulated educational debt is a sound investment. For some, at some places, in some majors, that theory holds. For others it is full of holes. Over-indebtedness lands squarely on the shoulders of students. Universities, elected leaders and lenders are held harmless and run from the reality of this inconvenient truth. Students borrow too much because over-borrowing is allowed and accepted as necessary. Institutional honesty is needed. It is a moral problem, not a legislative or fiscal problem.

If university leadership knows of lower cost alternatives for students who must borrow for attendance and fails to recommend consideration of those options, there is a moral lapse. In addition, when a university encourages students to borrow and engage in "valuable" experiences that do not apply to a degree program, carelessness with borrowed resources may be at work.

The White House proposal suggests capping student debt—an interesting idea, but it shifts responsibility from the institution and the student and lands it in the public square. Students and universities should cap debt locally on an individual basis.

Lenders give subsidized loans to students who have shown little propensity to perform academic work. Further, absent geographic proximity the detachment between the lender and the student is exacerbated. Lending localized to the area of the university or the student's home would reinforce the idea that *somebody* is actually borrowing money from *someone*. Student, university and lender would sense and share responsibility. Student borrowing would be focused. Frivolous borrowing and lending made profitable through federal insurance and guarantees produces little long-term benefit for too many borrowers. In all likelihood, any version of the White House proposal will provide protections for students and lenders. Risk will be reduced for both, but the cost of reduced risk will be returned to the public square. Personal and institutional responsibility is imagined.

At some point, universities should have the temerity to say to the student, "You are borrowing too much money and making too little academic progress towards completion of your degree. Go to work for a season and pay down some of your debt before returning to school. It is our best counsel." Honesty and transparency is a morally defensible position, not an illusion.

The fear of such proposals is that there will be disproportionate impact on people of color who may benefit most from a college education. Studies bear this out for African-American, Hispanic and female graduates. These are legitimate concerns and, unattended to, problematic. However, on the other side of that coin, first-in-family to attend college, people of color and other classifications of students suffer equal troubling impacts from the failure to repay loans. Studies show discouragement follows crushing debt loads. Wise counsel and an honest cost/benefit analysis of study and debt burdens need disclosure to students and families. Patent dishonesty rather than honest transparency undermine personal responsibility as well as institutional accountability and integrity.

Community colleges are a lower-cost alternative but suffer from "university envy," and indebtedness of two-year graduates increases. I tell every potential student, "Do not attend West Texas A&M University if you have to borrow during your first two years. Go to community college and talk to us every step along the way." However, if community colleges are committed to emulating universities, cost differences diminish.

The White House proposes limited borrowing, simplified repayment, no loan forgiveness for public service, repayment maximums indexed to income and a number of other seemingly positive features. But there's not a single mention of increased personal or institutional responsibility anywhere—Band-Aids where moral surgery is required. Organizations that lack moral authority or diminish personal responsibility are unhealthy.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Your call is important

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The premise behind technology used to be that it serves human needs. But these days humans serve technology. Weird times call for weird words, so, as some long-forgotten genius once observed: "When the spider eats the fly, the spider becomes the fly."

So, now what?

To the extent that the CNMI is serious about making any progress in tourism, the world's snowballing trend of dehumanization might hold a warm spot here. After all, though technology is a force on the islands, it's not yet the dominant force. There are still people who can get along with other people. That's a good thing when it comes to serving tourists.

Like many things in life, or in business, you don't notice something when it's working but you do notice it when it's not.

On the "not" side of the ledger, I've seen a growing number of examples where technology is deliberately used to put a firewall between staff and customers. Some formerly-mighty retail chains in the U.S. are making international business news as they fail. Regarding customers as merely human data mines, their stores made things as unpleasant as possible for these walking meat bags known as "shoppers," and, guess what, the customers went away.

I suspect we've all got stories about this phenomenon in our own lives as customers, be it in retail, travel, financial services, or whatever.

For a small, mom-'n'-pop shop, few of us expect fancy, Ritz-level customer service. There's nothing wrong with genuinely-rooted simplicity. Heck, given the alternatives these days, I think I prefer it.

But large and sophisticated companies seem to prefer technology to people. It's getting to be a pretty twisted situation. I've resigned myself to migrating my accounts to businesses that are, for now, at least, less hostile to actual people. I'm lazy by nature and I try to avoid these kinds of chores, but I'm sick of waiting on hold while listening to a snide recording about how important my call is. This is the opposite of the "kindly hold, sir," you get from a real, live person in the CNMI.

Of course, it being Friday and all, a visit to my beach chair should be rewarded with a little bit of thinking, or at least as much as I can muster, which usually ain't much.

So here it is: Part of the situation we're contemplating is rooted in the "agency problem." This basically means that a corporate manager who hides behind a computer all day, and thus avoids dirtying the hands with the unglamorous world of customer service matters, isn't the one who is going to suffer for the eventual loss of revenue. The shareholders are the ones who take that hit. Of course, shareholders themselves are likely to be large institutions.

Furthermore, it's impossible to really determine cause-and-effect here; how many of your customers left because of bad service, and how many left because of other factors, is an issue that can be argued but never really proved.

When it comes to agency, the most incompetent bunglers often have a slick genius for sitting on the corporate payroll for a long, long time. It's the executive version of low cunning. The resulting absurdities are a common theme in the famous "Dilbert" cartoon strip. If you're looking for some text on the agency problem it gets insightful treatment by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his book *Antifragile.*

Anyway, having looked at all these gray clouds, if you're looking for a silver lining then here we go. Saipan's tropical charm, friendly ways, and laidback demeanor are attributes that will command a premium in the coming years. Globally, the cold glint of technology is getting colder. Saipan can offer a place to thaw.

So the good news is that Saipan doesn't have to be fancy, it just has to be friendly.

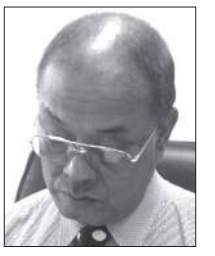
The, uh, other news is that the good news is null and void if a reasonably competent level of public administration isn't maintained. That's an agency problem writ large. But that's not my department, so we'll just keep on rolling.

I'll mention this: I've seen 10-person companies on Saipan that could, and did, outrun their 30-person counterparts elsewhere. That's because the Saipan workers were getting the job done (and serving customers) instead of stabbing each other in the back in office politics or hiding behind a computer in the air conditioning.

That's what I think. What do you think?

Hey, let me know. After all, your call is important.

'Not yet, already'



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Our financial posture has dipped by $18 million per the governor's latest budget submission to the legislature for fiscal year 2020. Nothing unusual. Resources fluctuate up or down.

The decrease was the result of two storms and exit of Nippon investments. The cumulative loss is about $14 billion in economic contraction!

Storm recovery leaves room for rebuilding but the latter is a tough challenge. It deals with investments that quietly left the NMI in recent past.

While assessing investments, Kan Pacific (used to lease Marianas Country Club in Marpi) didn't submit any interest after it terminated its lease. Now DPL advertises for interested parties to run the facility. Is this indicative of the end of Nippon investment headed into its final stage? Very unsettling!

Jobs and revenues headed south while we boast looking intelligently ignorant. Does the elected elite understand the meaning of the recent exit of Nippon investments? Do you have any sense of its subsequent economic implications here? Would it compromise the quality of life in these pearly isles?

Revenue decreases as 15,000 employees earn poverty income wages and salaries literally struggling to make ends meet. This is topped by stagnancy in income with no chance of any salary increase in the near-term.

Helping them exit poverty income is through local appropriation. But it's a huge task in that it would need more than $650 million to fulfill. Source of this fund anybody? It requires leadership!

Moreover, the power rate increase this week is another pile of hardship leveled against families already under abject poverty conditions. Woe! Anybody home?

Do we have some depth of vision how to alleviate the deepening hardship on households across the archipelago? Any solid idea how this is best resolved beyond dismissing it with the usual chorus, "not yet, already?"

Culture: What's the savings grace that has kept this issue hidden all these years? It's the combination of a culture of sharing and generosity, including food stamps and other federally-funded assistance. Otherwise, there would be a lot of very unhappy people on the hill demanding real-time answers.

Sharing has kept us together in good and bad times. Coming from a large family I learned this aspect of collective survival amidst mind-numbing abject poverty conditions. We had to work the family farm to supplement our needs and did so successfully.

But the long hard journey was worth it. It sinks an appreciation of the essence of hard work to meet basic needs. You learn earning your dues—you work hard for it. Nothing is handed to you in a silver platter. It feeds that sense of cooperation with other siblings. It strengthens that sense of filial unity to face challenges together.

We know things have slowed down considerably in what's known as economic contraction. It makes it obligatory that we visit family members to feel out their situations. It usually turns out to be a good gathering where we burn meat and learn how our siblings are doing.

Hope: Be that as it may, I still see distant lights at dawn flashing from the wings and tails of large airplanes roaring off the international airport heading to Tokyo or Busan.

Our small tourism industry is moving along, slow it may be given the apparent economic contraction. Had to nurse a creeping sense of hopelessness as I ponder issues or this must be the low point of my day.

Moreover, our friends from the Land of the Rising Sun continue to make these isles their vacation destination. We thank you for your contributions. The NMI can't do without powerful and lasting contributions and investments from Japan. Our primordial relationship opened the way to work together for the benefit of all to which many of us are very grateful.

Recalled in the mid-'60s walking home after school when several buses loaded with people headed north. I didn't know it was the embryonic start of tourism here. And it gradually grew into the single major industry here today.

Both my folks grew up during the Japanese time and were able to get jobs in the industry for knowing the lingo. They had very decent Japanese.

Reiwa: Japan has picked an economic theme for the new imperial era: Reiwa Era. Translated, it means "beautiful harmony." Have we picked one or does it matter that there isn't any at all? Eh, I like Magoo's recommendation, "Not yet, already", while looking intelligently dazed.

NIPSEY

From Page 14

can men deserve the same life as their counterparts in other parts of town, without guns, without gangs, without hustling, with education rather than incarceration, with safe streets, with adults able to find good jobs. Struggle and inequality can make for great art among a select few; but as Hussle's killing reminds us, their artistry and their success does not necessarily free them.

So how do we make it better? The Los Angeles Police Department responds to spikes in gang violence by swarming the streets with cops to search cars for guns and question young men who might look like perpetrators or victims. And it works _ in the sense that guns are found and confiscated, crime abates and residents are safer from gun violence for a period of time. But the police often leave behind a community that feels invaded, violated, disrespected. Hurt and anger grow. Violence returns.

There may be better ideas, different things to try, and some of them may have been among the topics that Hussle was planning to discuss with Police Commission President Steve Soboroff and LAPD Chief Michel Moore on Monday afternoon. Meetings were to go forward in Hussle's absence, and in his memory. In remembering Hussle, let's remember as well those many young men and women, their families and their neighbors, who continue to be affected by violence.

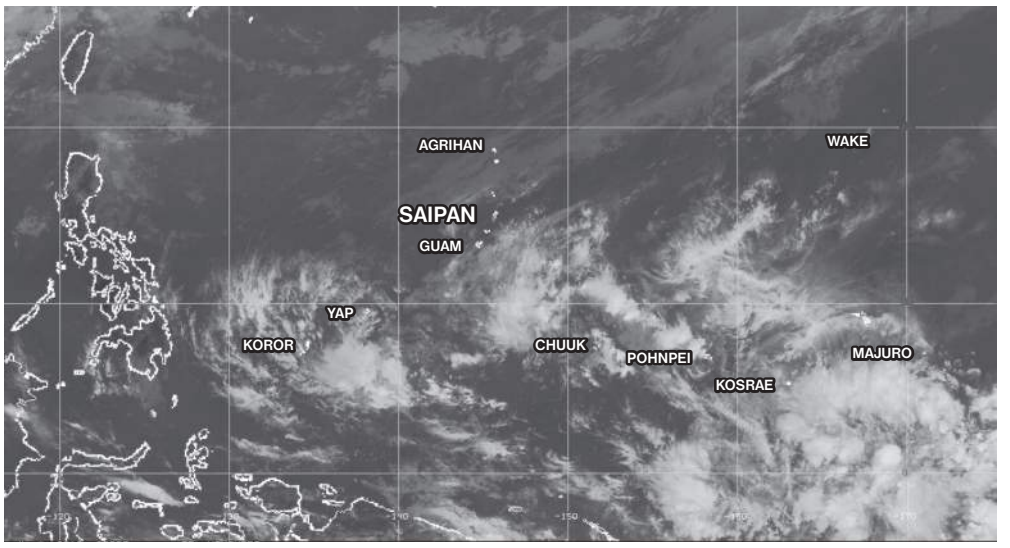
(c) 2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mp	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery depicts mostly cloudy skies over the local area. Forecast for today only had partly cloudy skies so adjusted forecast to reflect this. Uncertainty still exist about the weather tonight into the weekend. Models show a circulation south of the Marianas today. It will move slowly west the next few days. While the circulation will remain south of the local area...low-level convergence north of it will produce an area of scattered showers. Satellite imagery does show showers to the southeast of Guam. GFS is still the wettest and has showers over Marianas tonight through Friday with a second batch Sunday through Tuesday. The ECMWF... ICON...and NAVGEM has this only tonight through Friday night. Tended to favor the drier models and even if showers did increase feel that isolated will be the predominant coverage over the Marianas. At least skies will be mostly cloudy today through at least Saturday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 67°
London	Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	67° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 50°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°
New York	Showers	47° / 45°
Osaka	Sunny	64° / 48°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	63° / 50°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°
Salem	Thunderstorms	77° / 61°
San Francisco	Rain	57° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 43°
Tokyo	Sunny	66° / 48°
Washington, DC	Rain	57° / 55°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.34
7:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
2:17 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43
8:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:06 AM	6:27 PM	-
Saturday	6:44 AM	7:16 PM	-
Sunday	7:23 AM	8:07 PM	-
Monday	8:05 AM	8:59 PM	-
Tuesday	8:49 AM	9:54 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Autopsies delayed in Guam due to lack of permanent examiner

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam has experienced significant delays in autopsies since the retirement of the island's chief medical examiner.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Wednesday that the retirement at the end of January has caused delays of criminal cases, as well as exams of people who died from natural causes.

Funeral officials say grieving families can be left waiting for days at a time while postmortem examinations are done by a Saipan-based pathologist who travels 136 miles (219 kilometers) to Guam and stays for only a few days at a time.

Officials say autopsies must be performed on those who die within 24 hours of a hospital admission and on bodies that are to be transported off the island or cremated.

PHI Pharmacy to dispense meds at KCHC

PHI Pharmacy will soon open a branch at the Kagman Community Health Center.

Under a new agreement it inked with the KCHC board of directors, PHI, or Pacific Health Inc., will be filling prescriptions for KCHC patients with drugs purchased under the 340B Drug Discount Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing from left, Terry Aldan, Mako Torres, George Cruz, Dr. Ignacia Demapan, Fernando Camacho, Kagman Community Health Center board chair Velma Palacios, Lennie Hermosilla, and Matthew Gregory. Seated, PHI general manager Joshua Wise, left, and KCHC chief executive officer Vince Castro.

» PHI Pharmacy to implement 340B Drug Discount Program

The KCHC board approved and executed the Contract Pharmacy Services Agreement with PHI at its regular board meeting on March 21, 2019.

Established under Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act, the 340B program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in government programs to sell drugs at discounted prices to federally qualified health centers such as KCHC that care for many low-income and uninsured patients in rural communities.

Since 340B is funded by drug company discounts, not federal or state dollars, the program doesn't cost taxpayers one penny.

The cost savings will enable KCHC to:

■ Improve the quality and variety of drugs available

■ Lower or eliminate the cost of drugs for low-income and uninsured patients

■ Care for more patients

■ Provide more services

■ Offset losses from providing care without compensation

With the alliance, the 340B discount program will be leveraged to purchase drugs for dispensing using a sliding fee discount for low-income and uninsured patients.

The KCHC board is also considering assisting insured patients with high copays.

There are many stories about how patients can't afford to buy medications after paying for their doctor's visit. This is a huge win for the community.

More details will be announced as parts of the program are put in place. Full implementation is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RFP-007-19

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2019 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

AIRLINE STAIRS MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Airline Stairs maintenance service and repairs. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning April 5, 2019, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 60 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will take place on April 17, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, April 26, 2019.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business

Nissan's Ghosn arrested again in financial misconduct case

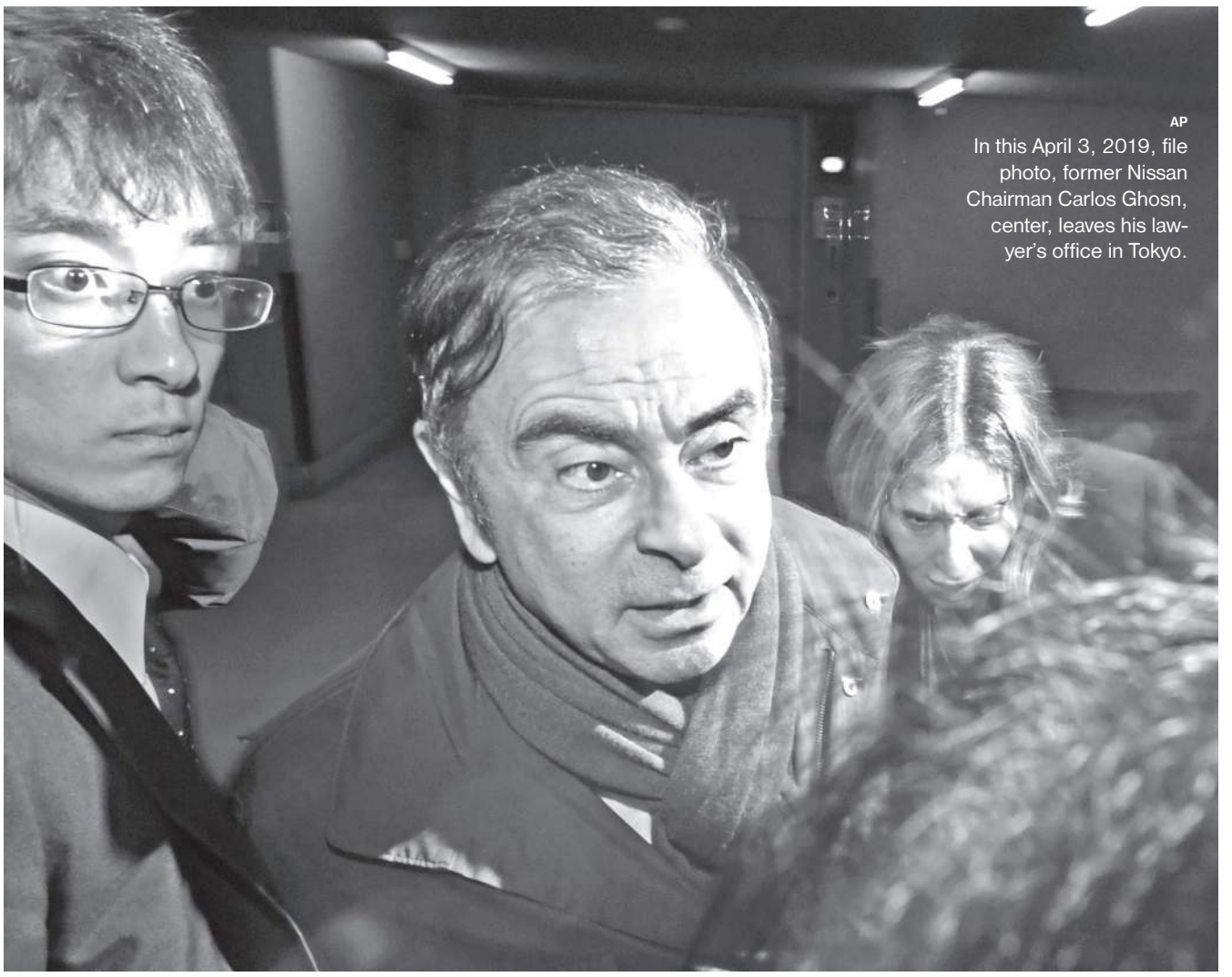
TOKYO (AP)—Nissan's former Chairman Carlos Ghosn was arrested Thursday morning for a fourth time by Tokyo prosecutors investigating him for alleged financial misconduct while leading the Japanese automaker.

Tokyo prosecutors said Ghosn's arrest was on suspicion he diverted $5 million from funds that were being relayed from a Nissan subsidiary to an overseas dealership. Their statement said the money is suspected of going to a company Ghosn virtually ran.

Ghosn's whereabouts following his detention were unclear. TV footage showed officials entering Ghosn's apartment in Tokyo, and a car later going to the prosecutors' office, barely a month after Ghosn was released on bail from the earlier arrests. A car with the same license plate was later seen entering the Tokyo Detention Center, where Ghosn spent more than three months following his arrest on Nov. 19.

A spokesman for Ghosn issued a statement in which he strongly declared his innocence. The spokesman would not be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"My arrest this morning is outrageous and arbitrary," Ghosn said in the statement. "It is part of another attempt by some individuals at Nissan to silence me by misleading the prosecutors. Why arrest me except to try to break me? I will not be broken. I am innocent of the groundless charges and accusations against me."



AP
In this April 3, 2019, file photo, former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn, center, leaves his lawyer's office in Tokyo.

Ghosn, 65, was first arrested on charges of under-reporting his compensation. He was re-arrested twice in December, including on breach of trust charges. The multiple arrests prolong detentions without trial and are an oft-criticized prosecution tactic in Japan's criminal justice system.

The prosecutors' statement did not mention Oman, but the allegation appears related to the investigation by Nissan Motor Co.'s French alliance partner Renault about payments in Oman to a major dealership, some of which is suspected of having been channeled for Ghosn's personal use.

Ghosn's lawyer Junichiro Hironaka denounced the arrest, stressing that a rearrest during release on bail was unusual. His release on bail in March was unusually quick for Japan, where long detentions without convictions are routine

"This is an example of hostage justice," Hironaka told reporters. "This is meant to hurt Mr. Ghosn and give more advantage to the prosecutors' side."

Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa expressed surprise about the arrest, although it had been rumored for days.

"So much can happen. I am shocked," he told reporters as he left his home.

Ghosn's family expressed worries about another detention, calling it in a statement, "solitary confinement as part of an attempt to force a confession."

Ghosn has denied the accusations in the earlier charges. On the allegation of under-reported compensation at Nissan, he has said it involved payments that were never decided or that were to be paid in the future. He has also said Nissan never suffered losses for his personal investments and that allegedly dubious payments in Saudi Arabia were for legitimate services.

UK legislates to avert chaotic Brexit as May seeks new plan

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Brexit drama went into overtime Wednesday as Prime Minister Theresa May and the country's main opposition sought a compromise deal to prevent an abrupt British departure from the European Union at the end of next week.

In an about-face that left pro-Brexit members of May's Conservative Party howling with outrage, the prime minister sought to forge an agreement with left-wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn after failing three times to win Parliament's backing for her Brexit deal.

May also said she would ask the EU for a further delay to Britain's departure date — postponed once already — to avert a chaotic and economically damaging no-deal Brexit on April 12. Skeptical lawmakers, reluctant to take her word for it, approved a hastily crafted law that compels May to ask for an extension to the Brexit deadline if a no-deal departure is looming.

"The country needs a solution, the country deserves a solution, and that's what I'm working to find," May told lawmakers before meeting with Corbyn for about two hours.

Afterward, both the government and Labour called the meeting "constructive" and said their teams would hold more in-depth talks Thursday.

May's office said both sides had shown "flexibility and a commitment to bring the current Brexit uncertainty to a close."

Corbyn, more muted, said "the meeting was useful but inconclusive."

"There hasn't been as much change as I expected," he said.

May's change of direction left her caught between angry Conservatives who accuse her of throwing away Brexit, and Labour opponents mistrustful of her sudden change of heart.

Labour lawmaker Paul Sweeney said May's outreach to his party "shows the desperation that she's in."

Pro-Brexit Conservatives, meanwhile, expressed outrage. Two junior ministers quit, and other lawmakers angrily accused May of putting the socialist Corbyn in the Brexit driver's seat.

Her cross-party talks — after almost three years of seeking to push through her own version of a Brexit divorce deal — came amid EU warnings that a damaging withdrawal without a plan was growing more likely by the day.

Pilots in doomed plane re-engaged suspect anti-stall system

Pilots of an airliner that crashed last month in Ethiopia initially followed Boeing's emergency steps by disconnecting a system that can force the nose of the plane down, but they could not regain control.

Data from the plane indicates that the pilots then broke from Boeing recommendations by reconnecting power to the system, according to an official familiar with the crash investigation.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because a preliminary report on the March 10 crash has not yet been made public. Ethiopian investigators are expected to release the report on Thursday.

News that pilots of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max turned off a critical flight-control system suspected of playing a role in an earlier crash of the same model was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

The newspaper said the pilots' actions are still being evaluated by investigators but could raise questions about assertions by Boeing and U.S. regulators last year that pilots could regain control in some emergencies by following steps that include turning off an anti-stall system designed specifically for the Max.

In a statement, Boeing urged against speculating before the preliminary report and flight data from the plane are released.

Investigators are examining the crashes that killed all 346 people aboard the two Max 8 jets, which were operated by Lion Air, an Indonesia carrier, and Ethiopian Airlines. They are looking into the role of a flight-control system known by its acronym, MCAS, which under some circumstances can automatically lower the plane's nose to prevent an aerodynamic stall.

The Max has been grounded worldwide pending a software fix that Boeing is rolling out, which must still receive approval from the Federal Aviation Administration and other regulators.

The official who discussed the matter with The Associated Press said that data downloaded from the plane's so-called black boxes indicates that the pilots of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 followed recommendations by flipping two switches that disconnected power to the system. Sources told the Journal that despite that step, the pilots could not make the plane climb. ***(AP)***

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,873.40	26,218.13	7,895.55
+6.16	+39.03	+46.86
+0.21%	+0.15%	+0.60%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.41	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	65.12
British Pound	0.7592	Indian Rupee	68.69	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.34	Japanese Yen	111.40	South Korean Won	1,117.04
Chinese Yuan	6.71	Malaysian Ringgit	4.08	Swiss Franc	1.00
Euro	0.8896	New Zealand Dollar	1.47	Taiwan Dollar	30.30
		Philippine Peso	51.07	Thailand Baht	31.72

Nation

Autopsy: Migrant boy who died in US had flu infection

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—An autopsy report confirmed Wednesday that an 8-year-old Guatemalan boy who died while in custody of the U.S. Border Patrol on Christmas Eve succumbed to a flu infection—one of two deaths of Central American children in December that raised concerns about the government's ability to care for minors at the southern border.

The New Mexico Office of the Medical Examiner released its autopsy findings for Felipe Gomez Alonzo two days after Guatemalan authorities said they had received a copy of the report disclosing the boy had a rapid, progressive infection that led to organ failure.

An autopsy released last week for 7-year-old Jakelin Caal Maquin, the other Guatemalan child who died, showed she also had a bacterial infection that quickly led to sepsis and organ failure.

Their deaths, just over two weeks apart, came amid a rise in the number of families arriving at the United States' southern border.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has taken to social media in recent days, tweeting that Congress must confront what she called an emergency by giving border and immigration authorities the tools and resources needed to "fulfill our humanitarian and security mission."

She visited El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday, marking her first stop on a border tour aimed at assessing the surge of migrants and the department's response. "Our system and facilities were never structured to withstand the current influx of immigrants," she said.

Gomez Alonzo and his father, Agustin Gomez, were apprehended by the Border Patrol in mid-December after the family said the two left Guatemala because of the extreme poverty and lack of opportunity they were facing.

The father said others from his community had been able to cross the U.S. border with children, and he figured he and his son would have the same luck. Felipe was chosen to go with his father because he was the oldest son.

Once in Border Patrol's custody, Gomez Alonzo and his father were taken to several facilities including the processing center at the Paso del Norte port of entry, then the El Paso Border Patrol station.

The day before Gomez Alonzo died, they arrived at about 1 a.m. at the Border Patrol station in Alamogordo, New Mexico, about 90 miles (or 145 kilometers) north of the border, according to the agency. Officials said the two were moved there "because of capacity levels" in El Paso.

The day Felipe died, a border agent noticed the boy was coughing and had "glossy eyes," and sent him to the hospital, Border Patrol said.

He was found to have a 103-degree fever (39.4 degrees Celsius), officials have said.

New Mexico medical examiners said in their report that the boy complained of a sore throat, congestion and fever before being taken to the hospital, where he tested positive for flu.

He was held for observation for 90 minutes, federal authorities said, before being released with prescriptions for amoxicillin and ibuprofen. But the boy fell sick hours later and was readmitted to the hospital, where he later died.

The boy reportedly had become unresponsive on the way back to the hospital, medical examiners said.

"Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time," Dr. Kurt Nolte, the state's chief medical investigator, said in a statement.

New Mexico authorities previously said the boy tested positive for the flu.

His autopsy showed he suffered a staph infection in his lungs before the bacteria entered his bloodstream and sepsis set in. A toxicology report released by the medical examiner shows he had Benadryl in his system.

Jakelin Caal died Dec. 8 in El Paso, just over a day after she was apprehended by Border Patrol agents with her father after entering the U.S.

AP

In this Monday, Dec. 24, 2018, file photo, family members pay their final respects to 7-year-old Jakelin Caal Maquin during a memorial service in her grandparent's home in San Antonio Secortez, Guatemala.

Cousin of student killed: The sadness will 'never end'

WEST WINDSOR, N.J. (AP)—The cousin of a college student who authorities say mistakenly got into the wrong car and was kidnapped and killed in South Carolina said the sadness the family is suffering "will never end."

Hundreds of mourners packed Congregation Beth Chaim on Wednesday in West Windsor, New Jersey, for Samantha Josephson's funeral. Josephson, 21, was from nearby Robbinsville and attended the University of South Carolina.

Josephson ordered an Uber ride early Friday but mistakenly got into a similar car driven by Nathaniel David Rowland , 24, authorities said. They allege he killed Josephson and dumped her body.

Seth Josephson said outside his cousin's funeral that the sadness "may wane in the future, but will always leave a hole in the hearts of (her) fun-loving, generous and kind parents and sister," NJ.com reported .

"Today, they don't know and can't contemplate how they will think of the future," he said.

Samantha Josephson had spent the night with friends at Columbia's Five Points bar district, authorities said. She got separated from the group, so she called an Uber to take her home about 1:30 a.m. Friday.

The first dark car Josephson went up to was not her ride, her father, Seymour Josephson said . So she jumped into a second similar looking car, he said, adding that the vehicle's child safety locks were on.

After Josephson got into Rowland's car, he attacked her, causing numerous wounds to her head, neck, face, upper body, leg and foot with a sharp object, according to arrest warrants and the coroner's report. The documents didn't say what was used to attack her.

Josephson's blood and cellphone were found in his car the next night when he was arrested two blocks from Five Points, authorities said.

Josephson's body was found in Clarendon County, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) from Columbia, police said.

Rowland skipped a first court appearance, and records don't show if he has a lawyer. He's charged with kidnapping and murder.

In the wake of Josephson's death, a bill has been introduced in the South Carolina Legislature to require Uber and Lyft drivers to have illuminated signs.

ACROSS THE NATION

Immigrant agents arrest 280 at Texas tech repair company

DALLAS (AP)—Immigration agents have arrested nearly 300 people at a North Texas technology company in what authorities say is one of the largest enforcement actions of its kind in a decade. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says federal agents arrested 280 workers Wednesday at CVE Technology Group in Allen, a city about 15 miles (24 kilometers) northeast of Dallas. The federal agency says the technology repair company employees were working in the United States illegally, but did not release details of who was detained. ICE says it began auditing the employment document of workers at CVE Technology after receiving tips that the business was knowingly hiring people not authorized to work in the country. CVE employee Yessenia Ponce described the raid as "crazy" to KERA News , and said people were screaming.

Los Angeles police say bike-riding face slasher arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who rode around on a bicycle and slashed the faces and necks of at least nine people in Los Angeles was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of attempted murder, police said. One victim said the man laughed after he cut her. Lenrey Briones was tracked down and taken into custody after police received hundreds of tips, Capt. Dan Randolph said at a news conference. The 19-year-old suspect is believed to be homeless, he said. It wasn't immediately known if Briones has an attorney. The assailant left at least nine victims, including a 13-year-old, with slashing wounds, and detectives were looking for additional victims, officials said. "The suspect instilled fear in this community," Randolph said. A man standing near a bus stop was attacked on Monday, and a woman was cut about a mile (1.6 kilometers) away, police said. They were hospitalized with severe injuries and are expected to survive.

10 hurt as stolen pickup truck causes pileup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say 10 people have been injured, one critically, after a stolen pickup truck caused a multi-car pileup while fleeing. It happened Wednesday morning in the Lake Balboa neighborhood. Police say they got a call from someone who reported seeing a pickup that was stolen the previous day. Seconds after police tried to pull over the Toyota Tacoma, it sped away, ran a red light and hit a car, causing a chain-reaction crash. KABC-TV says a total of five vehicles were involved, and the crash sent car parts flying into the air. The truck flipped onto its side. The driver fled but was later captured at a McDonald's. Police say 10 people were hurt, including a 25-year-old woman who was trapped in her car and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Asia

Brunei invokes laws allowing stoning for gay sex, adultery

SINGAPORE (AP)—New Islamic criminal laws that took effect Wednesday in Brunei that punish gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores.

The penalties were provided for under new sections of Brunei's Shariah Penal Code. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah instituted the code in 2014 to bolster the influence of Islam in the oil-rich monarchy of around 430,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Muslim.

Even before 2014, homosexuality was already punishable in Brunei by a jail term of up to 10 years. The first stage of the Shariah Penal Code included fines or jail for offenses such as pregnancy out of wedlock or failing to pray on Fridays.

But under the new laws, those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped. Adulterers risk death by stoning too, while thieves face amputation of a right hand on their first offense and a left foot on their second. The laws also apply to children and foreigners, even if they are not Muslim.

"Living in Brunei, we already knew that our sexual identity is taboo and should not be expressed. We already felt belittled before the law came to place," said a 23-year-old member of the LGBTQ community who wanted to be identified only as Kun out of fear of reprisal from the authorities.

"Now with it, we feel even smaller and the ones who could potentially oppress us have more opportunity to harass us to say and do what they want," he said.

Celebrities including George Clooney, Elton John and Ellen DeGeneres have voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Hassanal, who is still sultan.

"Are we really going to help fund the murder of innocent citizens?" Clooney wrote Thursday on Deadline Hollywood.

Clooney said that while you can't shame "murderous regimes," you can shame "the banks, the financiers and the institutions that do business with them."

Customers at two prestigious Paris hotels owned by the sultan expressed their support for a boycott.

Outside the Le Meurice hotel, Philippe Ménager said he was no longer comfortable going to the spa after being a regular customer for 15 years.

"I can't continue to be a frequent visitor of the hotels of this savage to preserve the jobs of the people who work at Le Meurice — who are very nice and I like them," he said.

A tourist from Norway, Anja Anderson, said she would have stayed at a hotel other than the Plaza Athenee had she heard about the boycott before making her reservation.

There has been no vocal opposition to the new penalties in Brunei, where the sultan rules as head of state with full executive authority. Public criticism of his policies is extremely rare in the country.

Hassanal, who has reigned since 1967, has previously said the Penal Code should be regarded as a form of "special guidance" from God and would be "part of the great history" of Brunei.

AP

A concierge stands in front of the hotel Le Plaza Athenee, in Paris Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Celebrities including George Clooney, Elton John and Ellen DeGeneres have voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Hassanal, who is still sultan.

Man accused of murder in mosque attacks due in court Friday

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The man accused of carrying out the Christchurch mosque attacks will face 50 murder charges and 39 attempted murder charges when he makes his second court appearance, New Zealand police said Thursday.

Police had earlier filed a single, representative murder charge against 28-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant. He is due to appear via video link during a brief hearing on Friday, and won't be required to enter a plea.

Fifty people died in the March 15 attacks on two mosques and another 50 were injured.

Police said in a brief statement that they were considering filing more charges against Tarrant but couldn't comment further as the case was before the court.

Tarrant's first appearance was on the day after the attacks in the Christchurch District Court. His case has now been moved to the High Court due to the seriousness of the charges. Tarrant has reportedly been moved to a high-security prison in Auckland, which is why he'll appear via video link.

During the scheduled court hearing, media photographs won't be allowed and reporting on the proceedings will be severely restricted under New Zealand law. The intent of the law is to avoid the possibility the reporting and images would taint the views of potential jurors before they hear evidence in court.

Judge Cameron Mander said in a note that the brief hearing will mainly be about the accused gunman's legal representation.

Tarrant earlier dismissed lawyer Richard Peters, who was assigned to represent him during his district court appearance. Peters said Tarrant told him that he wants to represent himself. Many worry that Tarrant will try to use his trial as a soapbox to push his white supremacist views.

The judge said he had received applications from 25 media organizations to take film, photographs or audio recordings of Friday's hearing but had denied all of them. He said reporters could remain throughout and take notes, although would be restricted in what they could report.

He said media could still use pixelated images of Tarrant which the district court judge had allowed. The pixilation obscured his face.

Retired law professor Bill Hodge said the idea behind obscuring his image was that the prosecution might need a witness to be sure he saw the gunman at the mosque rather than recognizing him from media stories.

Hodge said New Zealand and Australia were trying to preserve the ancient common-law approach to a fair trial, but that it seemed quaint in an era where people could easily find more information or images on the internet.

New Zealand's Department of Corrections said in an email they wouldn't answer questions such as where Tarrant was being held due to operational security reasons. They said that despite some restrictions, he was being managed in accordance with New Zealand and international laws regarding the treatment of prisoners.

"At this time, he has no access to television, radio or newspapers and no approved visitors," the department said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH Supreme Court orders release of drug war evidence

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the release of police documents on thousands of killings of suspects in the president's anti-drug crackdown, in a ruling that human rights groups said could shed light on allegations of extrajudicial killings. Supreme Court spokesman Brian Keith Hosaka said the court ordered the government solicitor-general to provide the police reports to two rights groups which had sought them. The 15-member court, whose justices are meeting in northern Baguio city, has yet to rule on a separate petition to declare President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign unconstitutional. Solicitor-General Jose Calida had earlier agreed to release the voluminous police documents to the court but rejected the requests of the two groups, the Free Legal Assistance Group and the Center for International Law, arguing that such a move would undermine law enforcement and national security. The two groups welcomed the court order. "It's a big step forward for transparency and accountability," said Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno, who heads the Free Legal Assistance Group.

Malaysia urged to reinvestigate 2 apparent police abductions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government has been urged to reinvestigate the disappearances of a Christian pastor and a Muslim activist after a public inquiry concluded the duo were abducted by the police special branch over matters against Islam. Amri Che Mat, who ran a Muslim organization, disappeared on Nov. 24, 2016. Pastor Raymond Koh disappeared on Feb. 13, 2017, while being investigated for proselytization of Muslims. The National Human Rights Commission on Wednesday concluded after a two-year investigation that the men were victims of "enforced disappearance" involving the special branch. It said the men had been targeted and abducted in similar fashion by men in black. Rights groups, lawmakers and a Christian body said Thursday a new investigation should be done to find the truth and punish the perpetrators.

Creepy cargo: PH seizes 757 tarantulas from Poland

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine customs officials were astonished when they opened nicely gift-wrapped boxes of cookies and oatmeal flown in all the way from Poland and found a hair-raising contraband: hundreds of live tarantulas. Bureau of Customs personnel seized the 757 tarantulas at a mail exchange center near Manila's international airport Monday and later arrested a Filipino man who tried to claim the long-legged and venomous spiders, which were declared as "collection items." Many of the baby tarantulas were concealed in small plastic vials punctured with holes for air while bigger spiders were shipped in see-through plastic containers. Officials estimated the value of the unusual shipment at 310,000 pesos ($5,900). Philippine wildlife laws prohibit the trading, collection and possession of such spiders, which are popular pets among arachnid enthusiasts, without permits. Despite threats of hefty fines and imprisonment, a startling array of wildlife have been seized by the hundreds by airport customs inspectors in Manila since last year, including geckos, iguanas, chameleons and a popular reptile called bearded dragons.

World

Ex-president seeks forgiveness from Algerians facing new era

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Algeria's Constitutional Council formalized President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's departure Wednesday from the office he held for two decades, as rattled international partners watched closely to see what's next for an energy-rich country that is a key player in fighting terrorism.

Bouteflika himself asked the Algerians people for forgiveness the day after he stepped down following weeks of protests and the loss of the army's support. He urged citizens in a farewell letter "to stay united, and never divide yourselves."

Bouteflika himself asked for forgiveness from his compatriots after stepping down in the wake of mass protests, and urged them in a farewell letter "to stay united, and never divide yourselves."

Algerians faced a new and uncertain era, after the resignation of a man who had ruled Algeria for 20 years and had been a fixture in the Arab world's political landscape for decades.

A discreet, 77-year-old Bouteflika ally—the president of the upper house of the Algerian Parliament, Abdelkader Bensalah—is expected to take over as interim leader while Algeria plans elections. But that might further anger the protesters who drove Bouteflika from power, and who want to overhaul a political system seen as secretive, elitist and corrupt.

"Our session today is related to establishing the vacancy of the post of president of the republic, following the resignation of Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika yesterday," said Constitutional Council president Tayeb Belaiz at Wednesday's meeting.

The 12-member body then formally notified Parliament that Algeria no longer has a president. Both chambers of the national legislature are expected to meet to name the president of the upper house as interim leader for 90 days while elections are organized.

A much-diminished Bouteflika, 82, appeared on images shown on national television Tuesday night handing his resignation letter to the Constitutional Council president. Bouteflika, who hasn't spoken publicly to the nation since a 2013 stroke, appeared pale and weak and wore a traditional robe instead of his habitual suits.

AP

In this image from state TV broadcaster ENTV, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, sitting in wheelchair, as he presents his resignation to president of Constitutional Council Tayeb Belaiz, during a meeting Tuesday April 2, 2019.

In the public farewell letter released Wednesday by state news agency APS, Bouteflika acknowledged that some of his actions as president were less than successful, writing: "I ask your forgiveness for any failing toward you."

But he also said, "I am leaving the political scene without sadness or fear, for the future of our country." He said he hoped Algeria's new leaders take the nation to "horizons of progress and prosperity."

Women and young people, who led the protest movement that pressured him out of office, are "the beating heart of our nation" and deserve special attention, Bouteflika wrote.

He notably praised those who fought alongside him for Algeria's independence from colonial France and urged Algerians to live up to their example and honor their sacrifices.

Algerian protesters celebrated his departure with songs and flag-waving in the capital Tuesday night.

New protests are already planned for Friday, after six straight Fridays of massive, peaceful gatherings that surprised the entrenched leadership by their strength and persistence.

Bensalah, the man expected to serve as interim leader, has led the upper house for most of Bouteflika's four terms. A one-time journalist and former ambassador, Bensalah has held senior political positions for the past 25 years but has kept a low profile, rarely giving interviews or appearing at public events.

He's known as a politician who works behind the scenes to strike compromises and solve problems, and who avoids controversial debates—and is very much part of the political elite.

Demonstrators worry that those who would play a role in the political transition are too close to the distrusted power structure, including Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui, accused of contributing to fraud in the last presidential election in 2014 and cracking down on past protests.

However, the protest movement doesn't have a single, unifying alternative to the current political system.

Another question is what the influential military and Bouteflika's entourage will do next. Military chief of staff Ahmed Gaid Salah appeared to trigger Bouteflika's departure by pushing to get him declared unfit for office.

Palestinian issue nowhere to be found in Israel's election

JERUSALEM (AP)—In a charged election campaign that has been heavy on insults and short on substance, Israel's conflict with the Palestinians has been notably absent from the discourse.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party has offered no plan for what many believe is the country's most existential problem. His main challenger in the April 9 vote speaks vaguely of "separation," while Netanyahu's hard-line partners speak openly of the once unthinkable idea of annexing all or parts of the West Bank. Talk of a Palestinian state, the international community's preferred solution for the past two decades, is non-existent.

It is a far cry from past elections, when peace with the Palestinians was the central issue for voters. This apparent lack of interest reflects widespread disillusionment in Israel over years of failed peace efforts.

But it also is a testament to Netanyahu's success in sidelining the issue. Capitalizing on internal Palestinian divisions and promoting sometimes contradictory policies, Netanyahu has succeeded in managing the conflict without addressing the bigger issue of how two intertwined peoples will live together in the future. Strong backing from the Trump administration has given him an extra boost.

"The peace track is currently in a coma," said Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute. "There's not much hope for a viable solution to be revived in the near future, so people can just keep pushing it aside until someday it comes back to haunt them."

Netanyahu took office in early 2009 and under heavy pressure from then-President Barack Obama reluctantly stated his support for an independent Palestinian state, albeit with many conditions, which were rejected.

Things quickly went downhill, and serious peace talks never took place during Obama's time in office.

Throughout his tenure, Netanyahu has repeatedly cast blame on the Palestinians, accusing President Mahmoud Abbas, who seeks a negotiated settlement with Israel, of incitement and promoting "terror." At the same time, he has maintained behind-the-scenes security cooperation with Abbas' forces in the West Bank in a joint struggle against the Hamas militant group.

In the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, Netanyahu has engaged in frequent rounds of fighting, but is also conducting behind-the-scenes negotiations with his bitter enemy in hopes of maintaining calm.

Istanbul mayoral candidate asks to be confirmed as winner

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—An opposition mayoral candidate in Istanbul urged Turkey's election council Wednesday to confirm him as the winner and asked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "cooperate" to stop the election results from "dragging" Turkey into instability.

In a major setback for Erdogan, his party won the most votes nationwide but lost its decades-old stronghold of Ankara in Sunday's local elections and ended up in a tight race in Istanbul, where the president once served as mayor.

Erdogan's conservative and Islam-based Justice and Development Party, or AKP, filed appeals Tuesday to contest the results from all of Istanbul's 39 districts, alleging irregularities that needed to be corrected and demanding a recount of votes deemed invalid.

Ali Ihsan Yavuz, an AKP deputy chairman, called the election "one of the most stained in our democratic history." That contrasts with statements from government officials, who insisted Turkey's electoral system is fair.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said recounts were underway Wednesday in 18 districts in Istanbul, a city of 15 million residents that is Turkey's financial and cultural center. Votes were also being recounted in 11 districts in Ankara, Anadolu reported.

Preliminary results showed opposition Istanbul mayoral candidate Ekrem Imamoglu narrowly beating his ruling party rival, former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, by some 25,000 votes.

At a news conference at his campaign headquarters, Imamoglu called on Erdogan and his nationalist supporters to "contribute to the process to prevent the results in Istanbul, which are being watched by whole world, from dragging (Turkey) into worrisome atmospheres."

Imamoglu held up a photograph from 1994, when Erdogan was elected Istanbul's mayor. The photo showed the opposition's rival candidate at a celebration of Erdogan's win. Imamoglu asked the president to reciprocate now.

"We are asking for justice," he said.

Referencing the conflicting remarks of the ruling party's deputy chairman and the government, Imamoglu added: "What has happened that the elections are now all of a sudden the most stained in history?"

The ruling party quickly responded, reproaching Imamoglu for allegedly not respecting the election appeal process.

"We have to accept the confirmed results," Yavuz said.

Science & Technology

Toyota robot can't slam dunk but shoots a mean 3-pointer

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—It can't dribble, let alone slam dunk, but Toyota's basketball robot hardly ever misses a free throw or a 3-pointer.

The 207-centimeter (six-foot, 10-inch)-tall machine made five of eight 3-point shots in a demonstration in a Tokyo suburb Monday, a ratio its engineers say is worse than usual.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s robot, called Cue 3, computes as a three-dimensional image where the basket is, using sensors on its torso, and adjusts motors inside its arm and knees to give the shot the right angle and propulsion for a swish.

Efforts in developing human-shaped robots underline a global shift in robotics use from pre-programmed mechanical arms in limited situations like factories to functioning in the real world with people.

The 2017 version of the robot was designed to make free throws.

Yudai Baba, a basketball player likely representing host Japan at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, took part in the demonstration and also missed a couple of shots. If the robot could learn a few more tricks, he was ready to accept the robot on the team, he said.

"We human players are still better for now," he said.

Right after missing, the robot slumped over. It wasn't disappointment, but a temporary power failure.

Cue 3's name is supposed to reflect the idea the technology can serve as a cue, or signal of great things to come, according to Toyota.

The company plays down how the technology might prove useful. It's more about boosting morale among engineers, making them open to ideas and challenges.

In making the robot's outer covering something like that of an armadillo, the engineers said they were just trying to avoid the white metallic look often seen on robots.

The maker of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models has shown off various robots, including one that played a violin. Another, resembling R2-D2 of Star Wars, slides around and picks up things. At Monday's demonstration, it handed the basketball to Cue 3.

Experts say robots that can mimic human movements, even doing them better, could prove useful in various ways, including picking crops, making deliveries, and working in factories and warehouses.

Stanford University Professor Oussama Khatib, who directs the university's robotics lab, said Cue 3 demonstrates complex activities such as using sensors and nimble computation in real-time in what he called "visual feedback."

To shoot hoops, the robot must have a good vision system, be able to compute the ball's path then execute the shot, he said in a telephone interview.

"What Toyota is doing here is really bringing the top capabilities in perception with the top capabilities in control to have robots perform something that is really challenging," Khatib said.

Japan has been aggressive in developing humanoids, including those that do little more than offer cute companionship.

Toyota's rival Honda Motor Co. has its Asimo, a culmination of research into creating a walking robot that started in the 1980s. It not only can run, but also recognize faces, avoid obstacles, shake hands, pour a drink and carry a tray.

When will such robots be able to slam dunk, a feat that will require running, dribbling and jumping?

Toyota's basketball robot Cue 3 demonstrates Monday, April 1, 2019 at a gymnasium in Fuchu, Tokyo. AP

S. Korean carriers switch on 5G networks ahead of schedule

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's telecommunications carriers turned on super-fast 5G mobile internet networks abruptly ahead of schedule in an attempt to ensure the country becomes the first in the world to launch the services.

The carriers' 5G networks went live at 11 p.m. Wednesday, hours before U.S. carrier Verizon turned on its 5G network in some areas of Minneapolis and Chicago a week ahead of schedule. The South Korean carriers had initially planned to start their 5G services on Friday, but moved up to stay ahead of Verizon.

However, the South Korean 5G services were initially available only to a few individuals selected as brand promoters, including figure skating superstar Yuna Kim, who SK Telecom announced as one of its "first customers." Regular customers will be able to sign up for 5G services starting on Friday.

Carriers say 5G-enabled smartphones are capable of downloading data 20 times faster than existing 4G devices, which in theory would enable users to download movie files almost instantly. The faster networks would also improve live broadcasts and streaming services for music and video while allowing for a broader range of virtual reality services, the companies say.

Science Matters
How many oceans are there?
The seas flow freely into each other, but throughout history, their names have evolved for historical, geographical, cultural and scientific reasons.
"The Seven Seas" has had several meanings since ancient Greece and Rome
In modern times, has meant the four oceans, the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico
Steven Businger photo
ONE: The Earth's global ocean
• A vast body of water covers 71 percent of the Earth, with great currents flowing worldwide
• The continents drift constantly from place to place, and over the ages, seas open, then disappear
• For many scientific purposes, all seas are thought of as one, for example in the study of the global climate
AFRICA
AMERICAS
AUSTRALIA
Earth has a single ocean
As it has a single atmosphere
FOUR: The great ocean basins
• Connected bodies of sea separated by clear, narrow passages have different characters – the cold Arctic, the stormy Atlantic, the island-strewn Pacific
• Over human history, those basins have developed different cultures as the early sea-faring people stayed in their home waters
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
The sea passages
FIVE: Adding the Southern Ocean
• Most nations and their scientists now consider the Southern Ocean around Antarctica as a distinct sea
• Unlike any other ocean, the Southern Ocean has a prevailing current that carries its waters in a circle
Southern Ocean
ANTARCTICA
Latitude 60 degrees South
Source: U.S.National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Making it easy to log in to websites

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: My wife and I use the same PC, but have separate accounts for websites such as Fitbit or Gmail. Google's Chrome browser usually saves all the usernames and passwords for our separate accounts, making it easy for either of us to sign in. But Chrome will no longer save both our Facebook usernames and passwords—it only saves the data for one person. How can I fix this?

A: There have been other complaints about the Chrome browser's auto-sign-in capability. Try the latest version of the browser to see whether it works better (see tinyurl.com/7ax3dad).

If that doesn't work, Facebook offers an alternative approach called "account switching." It's aimed at two or more people who access different Facebook accounts on the same computer. It only works for those who sign in at Facebook.com instead of using the app.

If two people share a computer, an icon on Facebook.com allows a person signing in to decide which of two Facebook accounts to use. When the first person is finished on Facebook, the second user can take over and, without signing in, switch to the other account. Both Facebook accounts remain open during this process (see tinyurl.com/yyoq93pp).

How does Facebook know which two users share a PC? The firm doesn't give details, but it probably reads the MAC (media access control) address on your PC's "network interface card."

Google offers a slightly different feature for the Chrome browser that works for all websites rather than just for Facebook. You can set up separate profiles for two people in Chrome. Each profile will remember the login data and bookmarks for one person. An icon at the top of the browser lets you switch between the two profiles (see tinyurl.com/y8k84pt3).

Q: I've backed up photos from my Android phone to my desktop PC's hard drive, then failed to delete all those photos from my phone. As a result, each time I back up my phone pictures to the PC, I end up with many duplicate photos on the computer. Is there an easy way to eliminate these duplicates without doing it one-at-a-time?

A: Yes. There are programs called "duplicate photo finders," that will automatically review all the photos on your PC and delete the duplicates. Some of these programs will also find other types of duplicated files. Some of the better-known programs are:

- Easy Duplicate Finder: $40, tinyurl.com/y9qldqcs
- Duplicate Photo Finder: free version available, tinyurl.com/ybh6tq77
- VisiPics: free, tinyurl.com/ya8kuvrd
- Duplicate Cleaner: $30, tinyurl.com/mfl56n3.

Q: What app can I use to write letters on my Apple iPad?

_Susan Miller, Reading, Pa.

A: There are several iPad apps available, including free versions of Apple Pages (for an overview, see tinyurl.com/y5n7hc98), Google Docs (tinyurl.com/nejn4qp) and Microsoft Word (tinyurl.com/yy5buux4). You can download these or other writing programs (some free, some not) from Apple's App Store (search for programs by name or search for "word processing").

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

More condoms, fewer cigarettes found in annual beach cleanup

SANDY HOOK, N.J. (AP)—Volunteers cleaning up New Jersey beaches last year found everything but the kitchen sink. Oh wait, they found one of those, too. Unsurprisingly, nearly 82% of the trash removed during Clean Ocean Action's beach sweeps last spring and fall was plastic, including beverage bottles, shopping bags, straws and stirrers, and foam pieces. Interestingly, the number of cigarette butts picked up—22,000—was down by nearly a quarter from a year earlier. More than 10,000 volunteers plucked 454,365 pieces of debris from the ocean coast, bay shores and the banks of rivers, lakes and streams as part of the annual survey by the coastal environmental group that tallies the garbage left behind on the state's beaches.

Lithuanian man flies alone on commercial plane to Italy

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—A Lithuanian man flying to Italy got a pleasant surprise when he boarded the plane: He was the only passenger on the Boeing 737-800. Skirmantas Strimaitis, who was flying from capital Vilnius to the northern Italian city of Bergamo for a skiing holiday March 16, had the whole plane—which can usually sit up to 188 people—to himself. The only others onboard were two pilots and five crew members. The Novaturas travel agency said it had chartered the plane to fly a group home from Italy, and to avoid flying empty, one-way tickets were sold. Only one person bought one. Strimaitis told The Associated Press Tuesday the flight, which lasted more than two hours, was "a once in the lifetime experience."

No kidding: Woman pulled over had baby goat in lap

MARLBOROUGH, N.H. (AP)—Police in New Hampshire say they cited a driver who had a kid in her lap—the baby goat kind. Marlborough police say they pulled the woman over on April Fool's Day when they saw her using her cellphone. They soon realized that she was driving without a valid license - and with the goat. Police said the driver was a 60-year-old woman from Sullivan, New Hampshire. She was released on a citation for operating without a valid license. She also was counseled about distracted driving. Police posted the encounter on Facebook, with the comment, "I wish this was another April Fool's joke baaaht it's not."

Tasty waves, a cool buzz: NH man surfs with coffee cup board

HAMPTON FALLS, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire man placed second in an innovation contest after fashioning a surfboard out of hundreds of used Dunkin' Donuts coffee cups. Thirty-two-year-old Korey Nolan, of Hampton Falls, spent seven months collecting the cups for a competition put on by surf brand Vissla called Creators and Innovators Upcycle Contest. The Portsmouth Herald reports Nolan's board's made out of 700 cups. Nolan also used more than 30 plastic straws and other materials in his board. Most cups came from family members who gave them to Nolan, though some were picked up from the roadside. The Herald reports Nolan compressed the raw materials together and finished the board using bamboo, epoxy and more. The top honors went to Titouan La Droitte, who built a board out of 150 aluminum cans.

Woman buys out closing shoe store for Nebraska flood victims

HAYS, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas woman donated 204 pairs of shoes to Nebraska flood victims after buying everything that was left at a closing Payless store. The Hays Post reports the shoes were part of a flood relief shipment taken to farmers in Nebraska by Fort Hays State's agriculture sorority, Sigma Alpha, during the weekend. A graduate of Fort Hays State, Addy Tritt, said she wanted to help others because so many people have helped her in the past. When the price at a Hays store dropped to $1 per pair, Tritt negotiated with the business to buy the remaining shoes for $100. They included 162 pairs of baby shoes and two pairs of men's shoes. The rest were women's shoes. The retail price of the shoes would have been more than $6,000.

Pipe dream turns nightmare for pit bull chasing opossum

CLAREMONT, N.C. (AP)—A pit bull intent on chasing down an opossum was foiled when he ended up wedged around 100 feet (30 meters) into a pipe in North Carolina. Claremont Rescue Chief Eric Jones said in a Facebook post that his agency was called late Tuesday night to the scene, where Rocky the dog's worried owner stood. The rescuers dug holes in different locations to try to find Rocky, eventually locating him at a junction between the cast iron and corrugated pipe. News outlets report the rescue took around two hours. Aided by an electric saw, rescuers were eventually able to free the 2-foot-tall dog from the 1-foot-tall pipe.

In Sweden, naked policeman arrests fugitive in sauna

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—There's no escape from the long arm of the law in Sweden. Not even sitting naked in a sauna. Police spokewoman Carina Skagerlind says an off-duty police officer found himself sitting in the same sauna in Rinkeby, a Stockholm suburb, as a fugitive who had dodged a jail sentence for aggravated assault, among other offenses. Skagerlind says after recognizing each other, "the naked police officer calmly told the man that he should consider himself arrested." She said Tuesday the officer called colleagues to pick up the fugitive, adding "the arrest was undramatic and the wanted man didn't try to flee." The officer was praised for the March 29 arrest.

Dismembered remains of a horse found in Missouri park

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Animal control officers in Kansas City, Missouri, are investigating how the dismembered remains of a horse ended up in a city park. A man playing disc golf found the remains Monday evening in Kessler Park. Police spokesman Capt. Tim Hernandez says the horse appeared to have been prepared for consumption. After the meat was removed, the carcass was placed in a barrel and dumped in the park. The horse's head, hooves, legs, entrails, ribs and lungs were scattered in the area. Hernandez said in a news release that a veterinarian will determine the time and cause of the horse's death. Animal control will lead the investigation unless it is determined the horse was stolen.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

†Kern Francis Deleon Pangelinan

In his new life, he now joins his:
Paternal Grandparents: †Henry Sablan & Monica (Hideko) †Koyama Pangelinan
Maternal Grandparents: †Francisco Pangelinan & Dolores Cruz Deleon
Uncles & Aunties: †Damiana Koyama Pangelinan, †Edward Francis & Asencion B. Deleon, †Joseph Koyama Pangelinan, †Tommy Flores, †Regina and Aniceto Galveo, †Angelo Sablan, †Tomas Rueb

His loving and wonderful memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Parents: Frederick Koyama & Leonora Isabel Deleon Pangelinan

Siblings and In-laws:
Frederick A. & Margaret Bertha Pangelinan:
Nicole Pangelinan, Britney Pangelinan, Mya Pangelinan, Tawny Palacios & Greg Jin Arriola, Jerome Palacios, Blair Palacios & Ken Taguchi (Brayden), Sharon Palacios
Mark D. & Vilma Pangelinan:
Levonne Pangelinan & Edwin, Jovaughn Pangelinan & Grace, Jonah Pangelinan & Loryann, Katsutoshi Pangelinan & Selena, Christine Pangelinan & Ryan
Duanne P. Pangelinan & Laura Ann T. Deleon Guerrero:
Adrian C. Pangelinan, Christian C. Pangelinan, Georalyn Blas, Keoki Blas, George Blas, Jr., Autumn D'Ann DLG. Pangelinan
Christopher D. Pangelinan
Monica D. Pangelinan
Christina P. & Joey John San Nicholas Taitano:
Ava Kaori Pangelinan Taitano

Uncles & Aunties:
Ruth Deleon Flores & Family
Diana Deleon Sablan & Family
Marcia D. & Edward Mendiola & Family
Marie Antonette D. & Tony Mendiola & Family
Edna D. & Herbert C. Cruz & Family
Roland C. & Jane M. Deleon & Family
Connielynn Manglona & David Camacho & Family
Kartrinalynn Manglona & Carlos Henriquez & Family
Maria Aguon Pangelinan & Family
Ernesta Pangelinan Rueb & Family
Mariano K. & Soledad C. Pangelinan & Family
Vicente K. Pangelinan & Family
Vivian P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Family
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Family
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Family
Henry Jr. K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Family
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Family
George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Family
Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Family
Glenn M. Pangelinan & Family
James M. Pangelinan & Family
Michelle M. Pangelinan-Clark & Family
Evonne M. Pangelinan & Family
Peter Pangelinan & Family
Evelyn P. Pangelinan-King & Miles King & Family
Nida Pangelinan & Family

†Kern will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephew, great nieces, great nephews, god children and friends.

Mass for his reposed soul is being offered daily at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm.

†Kern will be with us for the last time on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. He will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am and visitations and last respects are welcomed at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by internment services at the Veteran's Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase for all your thoughts and prayers.

Frederick K. & Leonora D. Pangelinan & Family

Life & Style

AP

This combination photo shows Britain's Princess Charlotte in Victoria, British Columbia, on Oct. 1, 2016, from left, in Hamburg, Germany on July 21, 2017, at St Mary's Hospital in London on April 23, 2018 and at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace in London, on July 9, 2018.

AP

This combination photo shows various fashion worn by Britain's Prince George, after the christening of Princess Charlotte on the Sandringham Estate, in England on July 5, 2015, from left, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on Sept. 24, 2016, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on Oct. 1, 2016 and at his brother's christening service at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, London on July 9, 2018.

Some ideas for treating a favored newborn like ROYALTY

NEW YORK (AP)—Your sister, best friend or beloved cousin just had her first baby and you'd like to treat your favored newborn to some luxury. But where to begin?

Where you live and how you shop—online only, swanky department stores or exclusive boutiques—will help determine your options, along with the fast-moving local trends where your little "royal" resides.

The mindset of baby's parents also matters. Do they have traditional taste? Are they modernists? Is laid-back chic, chemical free or New Age more their style?

In celebration of the upcoming birth of the first baby for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, some gear and gift ideas to get you started:

PRAM OR STROLLER

What does actual royalty use? Well, in Britain it's usually Silver Cross. Founded in 1877, the company has been bouncing royal babies in their fancy prams since the birth of King George VI. Prince Charles got around in one when he was born and now the three children of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, have shared their Silver Cross ride.

The company has lots of options if you can't afford the top of the line, hand-built Silver Cross Surf Aston Martin, for example. It's available at Harrods for about $4,000, as is the Marie-Chantal Kensington for nearly $2,000. They convert from carry pram to stroller. Silver Cross is available in stores around the world, including the United States.

Too rich for your blood, or simply not the right vibe? Go for UPPAbaby (one in the Vista collection with a bassinet runs nearly $1,000) or a fun and funky Bugaboo. The convertible Track collection from Bugaboo sells for up to $2,000 or so, depending on add-ons.

ROYAL DUDS

Let's cut to the chase. While thoroughly modern Meghan may choose less traditional looks for her No. 7 in line for the throne, sister-in-law Kate has some favorite British brands for her brood, including No. 3 Prince George and little sis Charlotte.

The bite-size princess is quite the fashion influencer, with some of her smock dresses selling out in just a few hours.

Some of Kate's brands: Amaia (Charlotte's $184 burgundy coat for her first day of school), Pepa & Co. (George's whale jumper—think sweater—when he was 3) and My 1st Years, because who can forget that adorable monogrammed robe George sported to meet then-President Barack Obama?

Kate's choices aren't always hugely pricey, so don't sweat it.

And for Meghan's royal bundle? Meghan the American. Meghan the Californian. Petit Tresor has all manner of gear, nursery furniture and baby blankets, including monogrammed cashmere blankets with crochet trim for up to $700. Elegant Child of Beverly Hills has a selection of Charlotte-worthy party dresses in the $380 to $480 range.

For the feet? Perhaps the Duchess of Sussex will hop on the Freshly Picked bandwagon and outfit her baby in a pair of $60 "it" fringe moccasin-style soft shoes. There's a wide range to choose from.

SILVER SPOONS AND SUCH

There's always that gift option of a keepsake. Take your pick at Tiffany & Co. for silver spoons, cups and baby brushes. Don't miss the company's earthenware banks for $125. They include elephants, pigs and bunnies.

Queen Elizabeth II, the Duchess of Cambridge and various other royals and celebrities have been spotted at London's high-end Fortnum & Mason department store. Online, you can find the timeless Harmony Barbell Rattle for 140 British pounds. It's hand-tuned. It has 16 tones. It's crafted from German silver with an ample covering of sterling for added strength.

How about you hunt down a rare edition of a children's classic book? Let Abebooks.com drop some knowledge on that. Search the site for the world's most valuable editions.

THAT CALIFORNIA VIBE

Markle has embraced mindfulness as her pregnancy has progressed. Jerico Mandybur is fresh out with "Neo Tarot: A Fresh Approach to Self-Care, Healing and Empowerment," a beautiful deck of illustrated tarot cards published by Hardie Grant and available on Amazon for $22.48. Mandybur shows how to use the ancient cards and practices as healing tools first and foremost.

Just how Southern California the Duchess of Sussex will get when it comes to her baby is unknown. The nursery at Frogmore Cottage, on the grounds of Windsor Castle, will reportedly be eco-friendly and gender-neutral in design touches heavy on gray and white.

Will that color scheme take off in baby gifts? Saks Fifth Avenue online sells an Aden (plus) Anais 100 percent cotton baby blanket, the Dream Serengeti, in a gray print with rhinos for nearly $50.

Stella McCartney isn't a Californian, but she's feeling "cool California vibes" in the latest from her children's collection. That includes an adorable gray baby jumpsuit (for any gender) with a green and blue snake wending through, done in 100% organic cotton for $80. There's a palm tree print in blue, yellow and green on a gray T-shirt for $58.

British designer. Check. California cool. Double check.

Angelina Jolie not ruling out public office in her future

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie is not ruling out running for public office.

The 43-year-old actress and U.N. special envoy tells People magazine "never say never!" However, Jolie says she's "looking to others for leadership."

In her role with the U.N.'s High Commission for Refugees, Jolie recently urged nations to deploy more women peacekeepers in order to prevent sexual violence against refugees. Jolie says "we have to change laws that treat women as second-class citizens."

Jolie

Since breaking up with Brad Pitt more than two years ago, Jolie is focused on their six children and her work. Her oldest, Maddox, enters college in the fall.

She wrapped up her first starring movie role in four years in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil." It's due out in October.

The interview appears in People's April 15 issue.

Celine Dion announces Courage World Tour, new album in 2019

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celine Dion is ending her Las Vegas residency soon, but the superstar singer will keep herself busy by releasing new music and embarking on a new world tour later this year.

Dion told a packed venue Wednesday that she will kick off her Courage World Tour in Quebec City, Canada, on Sept. 18, and will make stops in more than 50 cities, including Miami, Los Angeles, Montreal, Chicago and Brooklyn. The 51-year-old Canadian singer said she is expecting to release "Courage," her 12th studio album, in November.

"It's going to be the Celine that you know," she said of the upcoming album. "Celine at 51. The Celine that you know. The Celine with producers and writers she's worked with. It's the Celine with new producers and new songwriters. ... The sound will change a little bit, and music changes. But I will always remain who I am."

Dion

Dion performed a few songs including "I'm Alive" and the "Titanic" anthem song "My Heart Will Go On" after making the announcement during a special fan event at the Theatre at Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. She started the event with a video of her hitching a ride from Vegas to Los Angeles after her truck broke down.

The Grammy-winning singer said she felt motivated recently to get back on the road and create music for the first time since the death of her husband-manager René Angélil in 2016.

Dion said she feels more "centered, balanced and spiritually connected" these days.

After more than 15 years, Dion will finish her critically acclaimed Vegas residency at Caesars Palace in June. The singer has toured since starting her Vegas show, but the Courage tour will be her first North American tour since her Taking Chances World Tour in 2009.

Dion called Vegas her second home, but she is ready to take on her new venture. She said don't expect to see her typical Vegas show on the upcoming tour.

"I was supposed to be at Caesars for a few months and sixteen years later, I'm on the road and album coming out," she said. "I cannot feel stronger than I feel here. I'm finding passion, finding my team, in control, in charge, feeling strong and healthy. I take care of myself. I'm happy."

Photos of Miley Cyrus raise concern about Joshua trees

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Social media photos showing Miley Cyrus posing in a Joshua tree have drawn criticism from people concerned about protecting the iconic desert species.

The photos posted this week on Instagram were captioned "Looking down at all the petty drama like...." and "Monkey Bizzzzznasssssss" but gave no specific location.

The Desert Sun newspaper reported other photos posted in the past two weeks appear to show the singer near electricity-producing windmills in the Palm Springs area of California.

Joshua trees are protected in Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve as well as under some city and county ordinances.

With their dagger-like leaves and contorted limbs, the trees are considered important to the Mojave Desert ecosystem.

There was no immediate response to an email seeking comment from a publicist for Cyrus.

Susan Burnett, who manages Mojave Sands hotel in the community of Joshua Tree, told the Desert Sun the images of Cyrus are a setback in educating the public about the trees.

"There is no way to erase the idea her image presents that climbing these endangered plants is cool," Burnett said. "I'm counting on her to help make this right and use her platform to help us preserve these ancient beauties."

Joshua Tree National Park spokesman George Land expressed similar concern.

"We would just remind her that she has a big following, people watch what she does, and it would be greatly appreciated by the Park Service and the people around the area if she would maybe curb that type of activity, especially posting it on her social media page," he said.

Unseen photos of Frida Kahlo by her lover to be auctioned

NEW YORK (AP)—Frida Kahlo with her head wrapped in bandages. Diego Rivera posing with a gas mask. Miguel Covarrubias at the beach.

The photographs of the three Mexican painters and other works by Nickolas Muray, many of them never seen before, are going on sale this week in New York.

The images, dating from around 1925 to 1946, are among 78 portraits by the renowned Hungarian-born American photographer, who had a decade-long affair with Kahlo after meeting her in 1931. They will be auctioned Friday as part of Sotheby's "Photographs" sale, each with a starting price of $15,000.

"It is the first time that such a large group of photographs by this artist, by Nickolas Muray, go on sale," Sotheby's specialist Aimee Pflieger told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

The anonymous consigner originally bought them from the photographer's estate, according to the auction house.

Muray met Kahlo and Rivera through Covarrubias, whom he befriended while working for Vanity Fair, where Covarrubias served as a cartoonist. They later introduced him to other prominent figures of the arts.

There are at least 20 photographs of Kahlo, Rivera or both of them together.

Pflieger noted that the collection "doesn't necessarily show the progression of the relationship between Frida and Nickolas, but it does show this incredibly wide range of people that were involved in their circle."

Portraits of composer Carlos Chávez, muralist Roberto Montenegro and actress Margo Albert are some examples.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Britney Spears says she's taking a little 'me time'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears says she's decided to focus on self-care as she goes through a rough stretch. Spears posted an image on Instagram Wednesday with the words, "Fall in love with taking care of yourself. Mind. Body. Spirit." In the caption she wrote that everyone needs "a little 'me time,'" followed by a smile emoji. People magazine reports citing an unnamed source that worries for her father and the need to help take care of him after a life-threatening colon rupture last year have continued to take a toll on the pop star. In January, Spears announced that she was putting her planned Las Vegas residency—and the rest of her career—on hold for the sake of her father. The 37-year-old Spears has sons aged 13 and 12.

Instagram stars: Harry, Meghan fastest to hit 1 million fans

LONDON (AP)—Pay no attention to Hollywood stars or pop idols. When it comes to Instagram, it seems no one can match the allure of a youthful royal couple expecting their first child. Guinness World Records said Wednesday that a new Instagram account opened by Prince Harry and his wife Meghan is the fastest-ever to gain 1 million followers. The account, which was opened Tuesday, reached the 1 million mark in under six hours, easily beating a record held by Korean pop sensation Kang Daniel. It has since grown to 2.6 million. Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, call their new account "sussexroyal." They say it'll be used for important announcements. Interest in the account has likely been spurred by the fact that Meghan is expected to give birth in late April or early May.

Curiosity about her childhood sweetheart still nags woman

DEAR ABBY: I've only had one boyfriend. For most of my childhood, he was my best friend. When we were 14, I got scared we might fight, break up and never forgive each other, so I told him I wanted to go back to being just friends without explaining why. In retrospect, I know how stupid it was, but when I was 14 it made perfect sense. When I said it, he got angry, but more than angry he was very hurt. I never saw him again.

My problem is, I haven't been able to put myself in a relationship since. Sometimes he resurfaces in my dreams. When it happens I always feel happy "seeing" him again. I don't know what to do about this nagging feeling and how I put off a love life because of it.

It's more than a decade later. He has probably changed so much and would want nothing to do with me, so I think it's better to leave him be. But I'd like to talk to the person he is now, whoever that is. Is there a way I can solve this?

NERVOUS ROMANTIC

DEAR NERVOUS ROMANTIC: Yes. If you know where he is, contact him and tell him you would like to talk privately with him. Explain what happened so many years ago and see if he is willing to hear you out. And please stop beating yourself up over what happened when you were 14, because it was normal teenage behavior.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 50. All my life I have known I didn't want kids, and I have had to deal with people who can't understand it. I have now reached the point where I can hardly wait until I'm 55 so I can live in a child-free senior living development.

The problem is, my partner is 10 years younger than I am. He won't be able to move there when/if I do, so I'll have to wait another 10 years to live in peace. I don't want to break up with him, but I may have to. What is your take on the situation?

OVER-55 ONLY

DEAR OVER-55: My "take" is that not all couples are exactly the same age, and if one partner qualifies to live in senior housing, his or her partner will not be excluded. My advice is to start researching retirement communities so you fully understand what the requirements and restrictions are before deciding to move there, with or without your partner.

DEAR ABBY: I know that you are all about good manners, but I think one current practice has gone WAY too far. When I sneeze, I get loud "bless you's" from neighbors down the street or co-workers in the next room. I am not religious, and I find it offensive. These "blessers" have been indoctrinated in a 600-year-old religious practice designed to prevent the plague from jumping into the sneezer's body. When someone passes gas or burps, the "excuse me's" are often more offensive than the act—no longer the demure "pardon me" of the past.

Sneezes, gas and burps are all natural parts of life. Can't we just let them be, without making them special?

OFFENDED OUT WEST

DEAR OFFENDED: You can. All you have to do is tell your neighbors and co-workers your attitude about their thoughtfulness, and I am sure they will refrain. In droves.

P.S. Having to say this to every "blesser" you encounter may be a very tall order, so be prepared.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

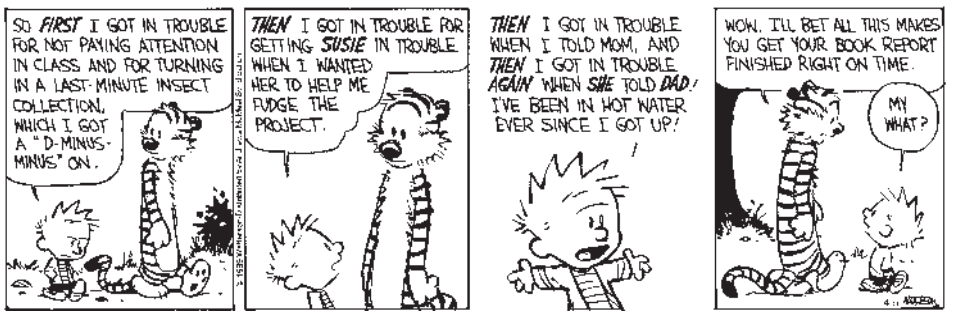
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

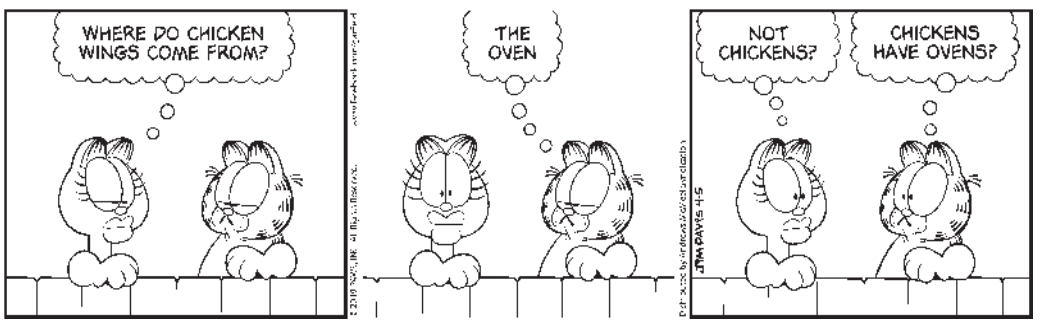
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO FIRST I GOT IN TROUBLE FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION IN CLASS AND FOR TURNING IN A LAST-MINUTE INSECT COLLECTION, WHICH I GOT A "D-MINUS-MINUS" ON.
THEN I GOT IN TROUBLE FOR GETTING SUSIE IN TROUBLE WHEN I WANTED HER TO HELP ME FUDGE THE PROJECT.
THEN I GOT IN TROUBLE WHEN I TOLD MOM, AND THEN I GOT IN TROUBLE AGAIN WHEN SHE TOLD DAD! I'VE BEEN IN HOT WATER EVER SINCE I GOT UP!
WOW. I'LL BET ALL THIS MAKES YOU GET YOUR BOOK REPORT FINISHED RIGHT ON TIME.
MY WHAT?

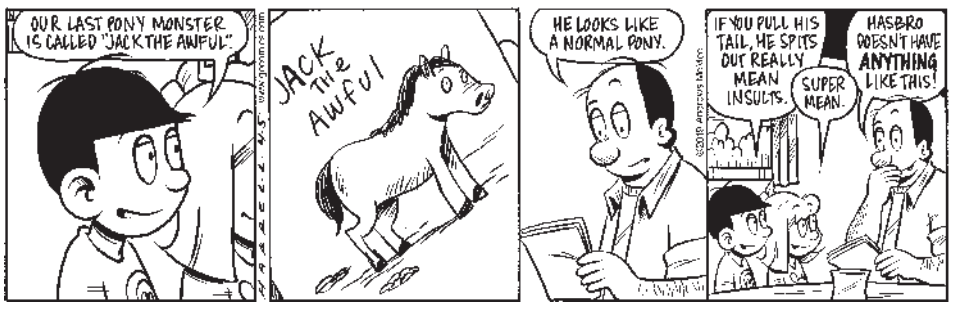
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



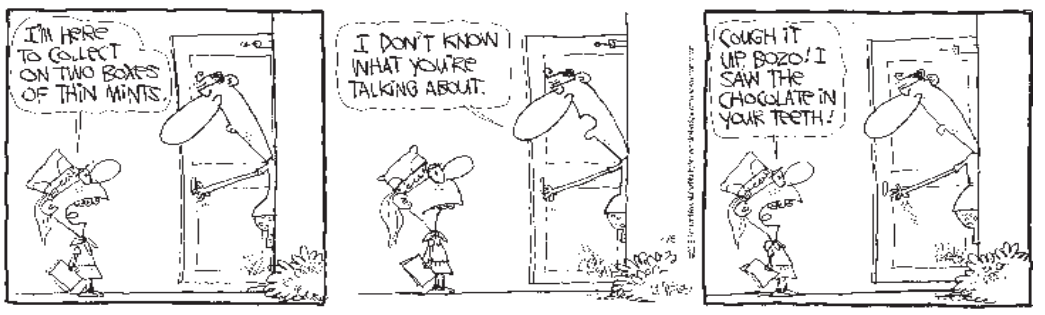
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OUR LAST PONY MONSTER IS CALLED "JACK THE AWFUL".
JACK the Awful
HE LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL PONY.
IF YOU PULL HIS TAIL, HE SPITS OUT REALLY MEAN INSULTS.
SUPER MEAN.
HASBRO DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M HERE TO COLLECT ON TWO BOXES OF THIN MINTS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
COUGH IT UP, BOZO! I SAW THE CHOCOLATE IN YOUR TEETH!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Baseball's Ripken
4 Glacial
7 Mrs. Flintstone
12 Baton Rouge sch.
13 Extinct New Zealand bird
14 Figure of speech
15 "— show-time!"
16 Parthenon locale
18 "The A-Team" actor
19 Le — (French newspaper)
20 Pear type
22 Sugary suffix
23 Actress Tyne
27 Director Howard
29 Cut up, as a pizza
31 Metric measure
34 Desert haven
35 Tam topper
37 "Ray Donovan" actor Voight
38 Money maven Orman
39 Vichy water
41 Latin love
45 Shadow
47 Mimic
48 Maryland's capital
52 Composer Rorem
53 Got wind of
54 Kreskin's claim
55 Big D.C. lobby
56 Authority
57 ACLU issues
58 Small batteries

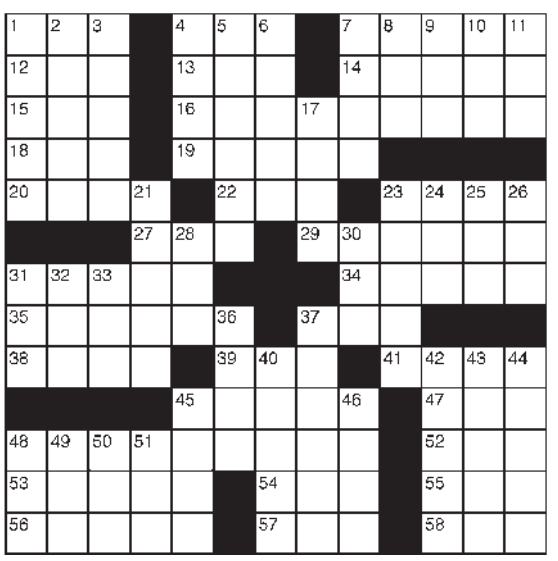
DOWN

1 Scale
2 Houston player
3 Has an intense craving
4 Mosque leader
5 Butterfly protector
6 Tales
7 Use a sponge
8 Altar promise
9 Dogpatch adjective
10 Miss Piggy's pronoun
11 Early hrs.
17 Rhyming tributes
21 Thin pancake
23 Hunting goddess
24 Rm. coolers
25 Island garland
26 QB's gains
28 Spanish gold
30 Privy
31 Vinyl records
32 Debtor's letters
33 Celeb gossip site
36 Office note
37 Legal expert
40 More skilled
42 Food from heaven
43 Verdi work
44 — a beet
45 High hairstyle
46 Nile vipers
48 Spa sounds
49 PBS funder
50 Opposing vote
51 MGM motto start

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	A		P	A		L		H	O	W	S
H	A	M		O	P	S	O		O	D	I	E
A	M	P	H	I	R		A		M	O	D	F
		E	A	R		S	T	E	E	R	E	D
B	A	R	T	O	N		H	A	R			
A	B	A		I	A	G			J	B	E	H
L	E	G	O		Y	U	P		N	O	L	A
E	L	E	C	T		M	E	R		O	B	I
			T	O	T		C	A	F		A	N
N	A	T	A	S	H	A			I	C		
E	L	E	V		E	X	I		R	A	M	P
E	I	N	E		T	E	L	L		M	A	H
D	A	D	S		A	L	E	E		P	O	D

Yesterday's answer 4-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pharrell Williams, 46; Mike McCready, 53; Mitch Pileggi, 67; Agnetha Faltskog, 69.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will flare up easily, leaving you at a loss this year if you don't use charm, strategy and intelligence in order to keep the peace and wheedle your way to getting what you want. Opportunity is within reach as long as you are willing to give an inch and negotiate with finesse. Offers will have strings attached. Your numbers are 3, 11, 18, 24, 32, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen, but don't reveal how you feel or what you think. Your power will come from knowledge, not from offering too much personal information. Don't be fooled by someone who makes you an offer that is impractical. Avoid joint ventures. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Catch up. Take care of unfinished projects you've been putting off. Put your energy to good use in order to avoid getting into a scrappy situation that is likely to unfold should you have too much idle time. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for a straightforward approach to getting what you want. If you aren't prepared, you'll end up in a precarious position. Too much of anything will backfire, costing you physically, mentally or financially. Know your limitations. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let the small stuff get to you. Concentrate on creativity, using your imagination and making the most of the relationships that are important to you. Keep your life simple, and don't complicate matters by sharing too much or being indulgent. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Channel your energy. Don't let someone sidetrack you into putting your time and effort into something that will benefit him or her instead of you. Know what you want, stay focused and don't stop until you reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Question everything and everyone. Get to the bottom of any situation you face by going directly to the source. Partnerships are what you make of them. Strive for equality and much will be accomplished. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep busy. If you have too much time on your hands, emotional issues will surface that will cause havoc at home. Activities that help ease anxiety and stress will alleviate pressure and encourage success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You've got plenty going for you. Take a leap forward and pay attention to how you can use your talents skillfully. Changes at home and between you and the friends and people you love most will give you a brighter outlook. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Trust and believe in yourself. If you waffle or think that someone knows more, you will end up being taken advantage of when you should be doing your own thing and expanding your interests. Home improvements will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Change begins within. It doesn't matter what others do; what matters is how you conduct your life and the way you go about getting what you want. Use your imagination. Be innovative to reach your goal. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take the initiative to do things your way. Making changes at home that are geared toward family fun or starting a creative project will get you moving in the right direction. Personal improvements will build greater confidence. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Think before taking action. If you are too aggressive, it may lead to injury or insult. You'll accomplish the most if you use your intelligence, intuition and ability to earn the support of people who have something you want in return. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, observant and communicative. You are reflective and fervent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1		8			
		5	7		2	4		
	8						3	
1	6						8	9
				7				
4	3						2	1
	4						9	
		1	8		9	2		
			2		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	9	7	1	5	3	8	2
1	5	8	2	9	3	6	4	7
7	2	3	4	8	6	9	1	5
9	4	6	1	3	2	7	5	8
2	7	1	6	5	8	4	9	3
3	8	5	9	4	7	1	2	6
5	3	4	8	6	1	2	7	9
8	9	2	3	7	4	5	6	1
6	1	7	5	2	9	8	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARGY-BARGY **Solution:** 10 letters

D	N	O	I	T	O	M	E	L	B	U	O	R	T	W
E	S	N	E	T	U	S	S	L	E	D	Q	U	H	L
B	Q	D	A	S	S	R	O	T	C	A	U	I	O	W
A	U	A	N	C	R	N	P	R	S	R	N	O	W	A
T	A	N	I	A	O	U	P	Y	L	E	V	I	L	R
E	B	N	S	I	T	N	O	H	S	I	T	I	R	B
C	B	O	S	T	L	S	T	C	U	P	R	O	A	R
N	L	Y	U	B	R	A	R	E	S	U	F	E	R	E
E	E	T	E	U	L	I	B	E	S	I	I	E	Y	P
R	X	U	L	O	S	E	F	R	D	T	D	R	R	R
E	P	O	G	D	E	N	Y	E	E	N	A	G	E	O
F	O	H	T	R	I	V	I	A	L	V	U	A	K	B
N	S	S	N	G	A	D	I	S	C	U	S	S	C	L
O	E	U	P	S	E	T	A	T	I	R	R	I	I	E
C	U	N	E	A	S	E	T	U	P	S	I	D	B	M

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Actors, Annoy, Argue, Bicker, Brawl, British, Conference, Contest, Debate, Deny, Disagree, Discourse, Discuss, Dispute, Doubt, Emotion, Expose, Howl, Irritate, Issue, Lively, Lose, Loud, Misunderstand, Noisy, Oppose, Problem, Protest, Refuse, Shout, Squabble, Strife, Tense, Trivial, Trouble, Tussle, Unease, Uproar, Upset, Vary, Verbal, Whine

Yesterday's Answer: Construction

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SURROGATES

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

For positive results.

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For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

Danilo M. Alcantara
and Arcelia T. Alcantara
P.O. Box 504134
Saipan, MP 96950-4134
Telephone No.: (670)989-5279
& 789-2004

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: C.D.D.A, Minor Child By: Danilo M. Alcantara & Arcelia T. Alcantara, Petitioners	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0137 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled mater is set for a hearing on May 20, 2019, at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2019

Clerk of court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

The Consular Office of Japan is seeking a Clerk

1. Qualification Requirements
- US Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident.
- Individual that could accomplish duty in English.
- Individual that could operate basic computer programs (Word, Excel, etc.)

2. Job Description
- Secretarial Work
- General Administrative Work

3. Working hours, day offs and leaves
- Working hours are Monday through Friday, 08:30 a.m. to 17:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday and the office selected Holidays will be days off.
- You will receive paid vacation leaves.

4. Salary
- Salaries will be determined by the individuals experience and ability.
- Pay raise, Bonus and Over-time payment provided.
- Must abide the regulation of tax payment from United States and CNMI.

5. Procedure on applying for the position
Those who wish to seek the Clerk position for the Consular Office of Japan in Saipan, must submit the following documents directly to our office by Tuesday, 30th of April 2019, at latest 17:00 p.m.

Please be noted that documents submitted to our office will not be returned.
1. Resume with the applicant photo.
2. Detailed explanation on the reason for applying for the position.
3. Copy of applicant passport, as well as copy of a Green Card for applicants that are Lawful Permanent Resident

6. Selection Process
First Screening: Review of the documents
(Those who have passed the primary screening will be contacted on the contact number indicated on the resume, for scheduling of the written exam and interview.)
Second Screening: Written Exam and Interview

7. Scheduled employment date
Late May 2019

7. Address and Contact Information
Address: Suite 201, MH I BLDG, Marina Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico,
Contact Information: 323-7201/7202

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Quality (NDT) Inspector (1)

Conduct NDT (Non Destructive Testing) tests using specific techniques on petroleum tanks, pipelines and marine and other engineered structures. Understand products, equipment set-up, and NDT operations. Follow specific operating procedures. Use safety specifications. Interpret and evaluate test results of special NDE instruments.

Experience of at least 5 years in inspection projects in accordance with API 1104, API 650, API 653, ANSI B31.3, ANSI B31.4, ANSI B31.8, ASME SEC-II, ASME SEC-V, ASME SEC-VIII, AND ASME SEC-IX in petroleum terminals, refineries, pipelines, chemical plants with minimum 2 years in petroleum tank inspection. Inspection reports shall be prepared using computer programs – MS word and Excel or similar.

Qualifications - ASNT LEVEL II in Radiographic Testing (RT), MPI, VT and minimum school diploma and additional technical training and valid certifications, a must. Salary: $10.00 to $13.11/ Hourly, based on experience and qualification.

Interested candidates may send their resume and certifications by email to markm@endeavourinspection.com no later than 04/25/2019

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: (3) CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

Job Description: Calculate Dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer; Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements; Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance to specifications; Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions; Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings; Prepare reports and document project activities and data; Report maintenance problems occurring at project site to supervisor and negotiate changes to resolve system conflicts; Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes; Conduct materials test and analysis using tools and equipment and applying engineering knowledge; Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems utilization or facilities or construction of structures.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have at least an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering; With at least 24 months of relevant work experience in civil engineering works; and Must be familiar with all aspects of civil engineering works.

Job Site: Lot # 004 D 110, Chalan Pale Arnold Street, 2nd Floor Tun Kiku Building, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

GREGORIO Q. CASTRO
President/CEO
PACIFIC ENGINEERING GROUP & SERVICES (PEGS), LLC
dba SSFM CNMI

Office Address: Lot # 004 D 110, Chalan Pale Arnold Street, 2nd Floor Tun Kiku Building, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 502713, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: gcastro@pegsmp.com

Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-7770 or (670) 233-7772

Fax Number: (670) 233-7771

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified,
U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) ASSISTANT RESERVATIONS MANAGER

Degree in hotel/hospitality management or equivalent preferred. Minimum of one (1) year experience working in Room Reservations for a hotel and three (3) years of related managerial experience. Must be proficient with hotel Property Management System (Micros Opera), Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel. Has experience with Vision Reports. Fluent in Korean language is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Applications must be received
by 5:00pm on Saturday, April 20th 2019.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Thumb a lift

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

thumb elevator

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Machado hits 1st homer for Padres in win vs Arizona

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Manny Machado's first home run with the San Diego Padres was a no-doubter that left the home fans happy

Machado hit a two-run drive with two outs in the seventh inning of a 4-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday that capped a 4-3 opening homestand.

The All-Star slugger lined an 0-2 fastball into the balcony on the second level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. The two-out homer came off former Padres farmhand Matt Andriese.

"Awesome. It feels great to finally get it out of the way, get it in front of the home crowd and come out with the W," Machado said. "Couldn't be any better."

Machado is hitting .240 with three RBIs in his first seven games after signing a $300 million, 10-year contract early in spring training.

While he seemed to be pressing at times during the season's first week, he said he wasn't trying to do too much.

"No, I mean, just trying to find my swing, find a groove," he said. "Sometimes it takes a little bit longer. Just trying to get some good pitches to hit."

Machado matched his career-high last year with 37 homers between Baltimore and the Los Angeles Dodgers. The 26-year-old has 176 homers

"I've got a few. I'm kind of used to it already," he said. "There's always that first one with a new ballclub. This is the second part of my career. It's exciting to get it here. It was awesome to get it at home, for sure."

AP

San Diego Padres' Manny Machado rounds the bases on a two-run home run by Hunter Renfroe during the first inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in San Diego.

His homer followed a one-out single by Ian Kinsler, another new Padres player.

"It was good. We needed those insurance runs," manager Andy Green. "It was big for us. We knew it was coming. We're happy to see it out of the way. "He's going to be a huge part of everything we do here. He's played great defense."

Nationals 9, Phillies 8

In Washington, David Robertson forced home the game-ending run with a ninth-inning walk to Jake Noll, a rookie without a hit in his two previous major league at-bats, and the Nationals beat the previously undefeated Phillies, as Washington's fans again booed Bryce Harper.

Noll was sent to the minors after the game to make room for utilityman Howie Kendrick to come off the injured list Thursday.

Brewers 1, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Freddy Peralta (1-0) threw two-hit ball for a career-high eight innings, and Manny Pina singled home a run for Milwaukee's only hit off Luis Castillo (0-1). The defending NL champions completed a three-game sweep and improved to 6-1.

Alex Wilson gave up a walk and a single in the ninth while getting his first save.

Reds starting outfielders Jesse Winker, Matt Kemp and Scott Schebler fell to a combined 1 for 42 this season.

Tigers 2, Yankees 1

In New York, Matthew Boyd (1-1) junk-balled his way to a career-high 13 strikeouts and Gordon Beckham hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth off Chad Green (0-1), his first homer since Aug. 28, 2016

The Yankees struck out 18 times, a team record for a nine-inning game, and dropped to 2-4— against Baltimore and the Tigers, who combined for 213 losses. Shortstop Troy Tulowitzki strained his left calf and will become New York's major league-high 11th player on the injured list.

Rockies 1, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Chris Iannetta homered off Chad Roe (0-1) in the 11th inning, and Colorado stopped a four-game losing streak. Iannetta had the Rockies' first hit since Raimel Tapia's leadoff single in the fifth and second run in 41 innings.

Wade Davis (1-0) got four outs to complete a six-hitter.

Tampa Bay, which entered with a five-game winning streak, gave up one run or none for a team-record fifth straight game.

White Sox 8, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Jose Abreu drove in three runs, Leury Garcia had four hits, and Yoan Mocada hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

Corey Kluber (0-2), who had won nine straight decisions over Chicago since July 24, 2015, allowed six runs—four earned—eight hits and three walks in 3 1/3 innings. The two-time AL Cy Young Award winner didn't get his second loss in 2018 until his eighth start.

Twins 7, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Eddie Rosario hit a go-ahead single in the ninth off Wily Peralta (0-1),

Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 25 games, tied with George Brett and Mike Sweeney for third longest by a Royals player. Alex Gordon homered and drove in four runs.

Trevor May (1-0) threw 1 2/3 scoreless innings, and Blake Parker earned his second save in as many days.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 3

In Toronto, Randal Grichuk took over from traded Kevin Pillar in center and hit a pair of solo home runs, a day after agreeing to a $52 million, five-year contract.

Matt Shoemaker (2-0) allowed two hits in seven shutout innings to help prevent a three-game sweep, and Ken Giles got two outs for his second save in as many chances.

Braves 6, Cubs 4

In Atlanta, Johan Camargo hit a go-ahead, three-run double as the Atlanta Braves took advantage of five walks by Cubs relievers in the eighth inning to beat Chicago.

Willson Contreras gave Chicago the lead with a long, two-run homer in the sixth. But the Cubs' much-criticized bullpen went wild in the eighth and blew a 4-2 lead.

Mets 6, Marlins 4

In Miami, Jacob deGrom struck out a career-high 14 in seven shutout innings, hit a home run and ended his streak of five consecutive losses to the Miami Marlins, beating them 6-4 to help the New York Mets complete a three-game sweep.

DeGrom (2-0) allowed three hits and walked one. Only one Miami runner reached second base against the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Tyler O'Neill capped another St. Louis rally by driving in Kolten Wong for the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as the Cardinals surged past the Pirates.

Two days after coming back from four runs down to beat the Pirates in Pittsburgh's home opener, St. Louis again took advantage of another wobbly performance by the Pirates' bullpen.

72 women make history at Augusta

EVANS, Ga.—Jennifer Kupcho, the No. 1 amateur in the world, hadn't really thought about what it will mean to be the first player to strike a shot at the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur until she was asked about it.

There are historical moments around every corner this week. Saturday's final round at Augusta National will be bursting at the seams with them.

"It's crazy that they're actually letting us play the course," marveled Kupcho.

On Monday, players gathered for a Players Welcome Reception at SRP Park, a baseball stadium in North Augusta, S.C. (yes, you read that correctly), home of the Augusta GreenJackets, the San Francisco Giants' Triple A affiliate. The players hit 70-yard shots down onto the field where caddies shagged the balls. There were fireworks and Tiffany bracelets to mark the occasion.

"We've all dreamed of being able to play Augusta National," said Stanford's Andrea Lee, who wrapped up a school-record eighth college title on Sunday. "But as women, we didn't think we'd be able to have the opportunity to do so."

She called the opportunity "monumental."

But before Augusta, there's Champions Retreat, a 27-hole facility with nines designed by Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Arnold Palmer.

Rain pushed back Tuesday's low-key practice round at Champions Retreat, where players pulled out long irons and hybirds a bit more than expected.

The signage, food (including prices), merchandise and pairings sheet look the same as what you'd find at the Masters. The logo is different, of course, and the scoreboards are electronic, but there are enough similarities here to make it feel like we're in a neighboring zip code.

On Tuesday night, most of these women will take their first trip down Magnolia Lane for the Chairman's Dinner.

It's about to get real.

Of the 72 players, only the Top 30 will get to compete in the final round on Saturday. There will be a playoff, if necessary, on Thursday after 36 holes at Champions Retreat to decide the cut. It will be live-streamed on Golf Channel as well as ANWA's official website.

"Friday is just going to be a really special day for everyone, no matter, you know, who you are," said Lee. "All 72 players are going to have the time of their lives, and it's going to be really fun, and I think for those who are in contention after the first two days, can kind of see it as a reset day in a way. But also, just to be able to really enjoy themselves on the golf course, as well, in preparation for Saturday."

Friday's forecast calls for morning rain, but the afternoon should be clear. All 72 players get the chance to tee it up on Friday for a closed practice round. There will be no fans, no media. Each player gets to designate a guest (in addition to her caddie) that can join them in what's sure to be a special walk.

Popovich gone in 63 seconds; Nuggets rout Spurs

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Nuggets ran San Antonio right off the court. Long before, the officials ran Gregg Popovich.

Nikola Jokic scored 20 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out nine of Denver's season-high 41 assists as the Nuggets routed San Antonio 113-85 on Wednesday night in a game in which the Spurs coach was ejected after just 63 seconds.

Jamal Murray added 14 points and 11 assists for a Nuggets team that's currently holding down the No. 2 seed in the West with four games remaining. The squad rebounded from a 116-102 loss to top-seeded Golden State a night earlier.

"We played," Murray said, "the way we want to play."

Denver steadily built a commanding lead against the Spurs before emptying the bench with about 5 minutes remaining. Popovich was long gone and didn't have to endure his team's implosion.

Popovich appeared livid over a non-foul call and called time out to argue with the officials. After two technicals, he was sent to the locker room at 10:57 of the opening quarter. The last time a coach was ejected within the first two minutes of a game was Washington's Flip Saunders on Jan. 2, 2012, at Boston, according to research by the Elias Sports Bureau. Saunders was ejected 1:46 into that game.

Following the game, Popovich didn't have much to say.

"You'll have to ask the officials," he said.

Soon after, Popovich joined the scrum where Nuggets coach Michael Malone was conducting his postgame interviews. The exchange between the coaches was nearly as long as Popovich's appearance in the contest.

Malone: "We were just talking about an NBA record that was set tonight."

Popovich: "What was the record? What happened?"

Malone: "Somebody got thrown out in 63 seconds."

Popovich: "Are you serious? That person must have hit somebody. Somebody get hit tonight? Somebody get cursed at or anything?"

And just like that, Popovich was off for the exit.

"That's one of a kind right there," Malone said. "I don't know what to say after that."

LaMarcus Aldridge and Lonnie Walker IV each had 16 points for the Spurs, who slipped into the eighth spot with the loss.

AP

Denver Nuggets guard Malik Beasley, right, dunks next to San Antonio Spurs forward Drew Eubanks during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Denver. The Nuggets won, 113-85.

Rockets 135, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, the NBA playoffs are still days away. Tell that to the Houston Rockets, who have their postseason mentality locked in.

James Harden scored 31 points, Chris Paul added 29, and the Rockets routed the Los Angeles Clippers in a potential playoff preview.

"(Chris) is dialed in, and James, too," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "When they play like that, it's pretty tough to lose. We played unbelievably."

Clint Capela had 24 points and 15 rebounds to help the Rockets win their fourth in a row. They showed little fatigue in cruising past the NBA's hottest team while playing their last back-to-back of the season.

"It's the best we've played and it's the right time," Harden said.

The Rockets currently own the third seed in the Western Conference and the Clippers are sixth, which would pair them in the first round.

Pacers 108, Pistons 89

In Detroit, Thaddeus Young scored 21 points Wednesday night and the Indiana Pacers took advantage of Blake Griffin's absence to beat the Pistons.

Griffin missed a third straight game for the Pistons, who are in the middle of a tight race for the final playoff spots in the Eastern Conference. He's been dealing with left knee soreness.

The Pacers snapped a 10-game losing streak on the road and won for just the third time in their last 10 games. Bojan Bogdanovic and Myles Turner scored 17 points apiece, and Domantas Sabonis added 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Bulls 115, Wizards 114

In Washington, Walt Lemon Jr., who started the season with the Maine Red Claws before being waived in late November, scored a career-high 24 points, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds to play, to help Chicago snap a five-game losing streak.

Lemon, in just his third game with Chicago, was one of the seven Bulls in double figures in the matchup of teams whose seasons will end without a playoff appearance.

JaKarr Sampson added 18 points for the Bulls.

Thomas Bryant scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Washington. Bobby Portis had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Bradley Beal added 19 points.

Magic 114, Knicks 110

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic had 29 points and 13 rebounds, and reserve Terrence Ross scored 23 points in Magic's win.

Evan Fournier and Aaron Gordon had 19 points apiece for Orlando.

Mario Hezonja scored 22 of his 29 points in the second half for New York. Kevin Knox scored 21 points, and Emmanuel Mudiay had 13 points and 10 assists for the Knicks, who have lost 7 of 8.

New York cut a 13-point halftime deficit to two points late in the third quarter, but Ross singlehandedly stopped the rally with three straight 3-pointers that gave Orlando an 85-74 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

Raptors 115, Nets 105

In New York, Pascal Siakam had 28 points and 10 rebounds, Kawhi Leonard added 26 points and nine boards, and visiting Toronto earned its fifth straight victory.

Serge Ibaka finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors (56-23), who need to win their final three games to match last season's franchise record for victories. Their victory prevented Milwaukee from clinching the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

D'Angelo Russell had 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Nets, who fell to 39-39.

Brooklyn has lost 4 of 5.

Hawks 130, 76ers 122

In Atlanta, Trae Young had 33 points and 12 assists, John Collins added 25 points, and the Hawks handed Philadelphia its second straight loss.

The Sixers began the night needing one victory and a loss by Boston to secure the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, but have dropped 4 of 6, a stretch that began with a last-second setback at Atlanta 10 days ago.

Philadelphia ended the regular season 1-3 against the rebuilding Hawks.

Hornets 115, Pelicans 109

In New Orleans, Kemba Walker scored 21 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, and Charlotte won to keep its slim playoff hopes alive.

The Hornets trailed by five in the middle of the fourth quarter when Walker's 3 ignited a 14-6 run that put Charlotte in front for good. He hit a pair of driving layups and a second 3 during the decisive spurt.

Frank Kaminsky added 21 points and rookie Devonte Graham scored a career-high 13 points for the Hornets (36-42), who, with four games to play, sit 2½ games behind Orlando (39-40) for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Timberwolves 110, Mavericks 108

In Dallas, Luka Doncic has drawn plenty of comparisons to LeBron James during a sensational rookie season for the Mavericks.

If the 20-year-old Slovenian passes up a potential winning shot in a playoff race one of these days the same way he did in a late-season matchup of also-rans, Doncic will be tied to James in a way he might not like as much.

Doncic deferred to Jalen Brunson on a 3-pointer that the fellow rookie missed at the buzzer after Andrew Wiggins hit a go-ahead layup for the Minnesota, and the Timberwolves turned away a fourth-quarter Dallas rally.

Jazz 118, Suns 97

In Phoenix, Joe Ingles has the green light to fire away from 3-point range—and he did so effectively Wednesday night.

Ingles lifted a short-handed Utah Jazz team with 27 points, tying a career high, and knocked down six 3s in a win over the Phoenix Suns.

"Feels great every night, to be honest," Ingles said. "I'm going to shoot when I'm open, regardless of if I'm making or missing. If it's a good shot, I'm going to take it. My team encourages me to do it."

Donovan Mitchell led the way with 29 points for the playoff-bound Jazz. Phoenix lost star guard Devin Booker for the game with 4:28 left in the first quarter when he landed awkwardly on his left ankle while jumping to receive a pass.

Trail Blazers 116, Grizzlies 89

In Portland, Evan Turner's second consecutive triple-double was even more rewarding because it came on a night when the Trail Blazers collected their 50th win.

Turner had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists off the bench in Portland's victory over the short-handed Memphis Grizzlies.

Celtics 112, Heat 102

In Miami, Gordon Hayward is playing his best basketball of the year, and his timing could not be better for the Boston Celtics.

Hayward scored 25 points, Kyrie Irving added 23 and the Celtics pulled away in the final minutes to beat the Miami Heat and hang on to the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race. It was the sixth consecutive double-figure scoring game for Hayward, his longest such streak of the season.

"Everyone made big-time plays for us," Hayward said. "We want to be playing the best we can be going into the playoffs."

Bigger turnout in Tagaman Triathlon

The 30th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday featured 181 participants from 12 countries—a 30 percent increase in participants from 2018.

Finishers were led by Yu Shinozaki (2:48:39) of Japan, followed by Hiroyuki Nishiuchi of Japan (3:04:06) and Aleksandr Dorovskikh (3:04:15) of Russia. Guam pro Manami Iijima (3:12:12) led the female category, followed by Laura Nadeau (3:13:18), also from Guam, and Maria Hodges (3:26:13) of the Philippines. Leading the mixed team relay (3:36:19) were swimmer Tamio Nishikido, biker Kimiko Mckagan, and runner Kosuke Sato.

Participating athletes from Korea, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, USA, Spain, Cambodia, Netherlands, and The Marianas took to the challenge with picture perfect weather conditions for the swim, bike, run event organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI under the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"This year's 30th Annual Tagaman triathlon was a testament to the enduring appeal of this event," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It was great to see many previous competitors, organizers, and volunteers return to support this year's anniversary, not to mention the many new participants, and we're looking forward to the continued revival of this great race."

The race began at 6am with a 2-kilometer swim leg in the western lagoon of Saipan from the official start line at Kilili Beach Park in Susupe. This was followed by a 60K bike ride along Saipan's western course south to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, followed by a picturesque ride through the scenic sites of the Marpi region of Saipan. The 15K run followed a lagoon-hugging course along Beach Road to American Memorial Park and back to the finish line in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam participants celebrate at the finish line in Kilili Beach.

The Tagaman Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA, jointly organized with TRAC and aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media coverage for The Marianas

"Glad to see the seed that was planted by J.M. Guerrero, Bill Sakovich, and Wolf Mojica continues to flourish," said TRAC president Ricky Castro. "It's a surreal feeling to witness former and new champions with a 30-year gap between them standing side by side on this rare occasion!"

Meanwhile, the 30th Tagaman Triahtlon was supported by platinum sponsors Kanoa Resort Saipan, the official hotel of Tagaman Triathlon, and IT&E. Gold sponsors were DFS/T Galleria, Tan Holdings, JC Tenorio Ent., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Brabu Pharmacy Wellness Center, MARPAC, Marianas Variety, Neo Timing System and KFC Triathlon. Silver sponsors were PDI, Triple J Enterprises, Powerade, and Tri-Tour. Bronze sponsors were Saipan Ice & Water, Bridge Capital LLC, Fiesta Resort Saipan, Marianas Medical Center, Saipan Shipping Company, J.E.T. Holding Company, Let's Go Tour, Saeko, Eland, Let's Go Tour and Island Apparel. Event supporters included the Dept. of Public Safety (DPS), Dept. of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Dept. of Public Works (Road and Grounds), DPS Boating and Traffic, Div. of Parks and Grounds, Saipan Mayor's Office, Marianas Health Services, Mount Carmel School, My Wave Club, and Hawaiian Rock Products. ***(PR)***

Bikers pass by the World War II site Suicide Cliff and other historic sites in Marpi. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Daeho Go, Ho San Baek, Saengwhan Park, and Daesik Kim of Korea pose for a group photo at the finish line of the 30th Tagaman Triathlon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Chang Whan Jang runs barefoot along Beach Road during last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Hocog, Ned Norita lead winners in Chamber golf tourney

Carl Hocog and Ned Norita topped the low gross division of Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Two-Person Scramble Golf Tournament held last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Hocog and Norita combined for a gross 63 to win the $1,000 top prize. Joey Dela Cruz and J.J. Atalig tallied 64 for runner-up honors and $700 cash, while Meae Jeon and Chang Hee Yoo clinched third place and won $500 for shooting a 65.

In the double peoria category, the champions were Manny Tenorio and Sylvio Ada, who carded 70.80 and took home $1,000. Gil Ah Kim and Seo Yeon Jeon were the second placers with their 72.20 and pocketed $700, while third finishers Tony Benavente and Pete Hocog received $500 for also firing 72.30.

Meanwhile, other contests included closest-to-the-pin, accurate drive, and longest drive. The winner for the closest to the pin contest in hole No.1 sponsored by DFS was Don Hallmark with six feet and six inches, while No. 13 sponsored by Mobil Marianas was won Ron Benavente with eight and a half inches away from the pin. For the accurate drive in No. 9 sponsored by MarPac, Mike Techur prevailed with a distance of three feet and two inches from the line, while the longest drive winner was Christian Camacho who smashed the ball 283 yards away. Each winner for optional play received $250 in cash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ned Norita, third left, and Carl Hocog, fourth left, are joined by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials and members for a photo after winning the low gross category in last Saturday's 2019 Two-Person Scramble Golf Tournament held at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Chamber board president Velma Palacios (IT&E), vice Joe Guerrero (JZ Group), board members Alex A. Sablan (Century Insurance) and Shayne Villanueva (Aon Insurance), and Events Committee co-chairs and board members Marcia Calvo (Calvo's Insurance) and Janel Pangelinan (Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.) congratulated all the winners during the awards banquet held at "The Grill" of the Kagman facility.

Earliers during the registration, golfers enjoyed freshly brewed coffee and pastries courtesy of Herman's Bakery. They were also given complimentary swag bag filled with goodies from StayWell Insurance, NMI Crime Stoppers, American Red Cross, and Saipan Snaps.

Loads of prizes were then raffled off during the banquet Raffle sponsors included Hyatt Regency Saipan, DFS, Hong Ye Trading Company, Fiesta Resort, MarPac, Kanoa Resort, Roil Soil, Tribe Marianas, Budget Carl Rental, Latte Built 24 Hour Gym, IT&E, The Shack, The Airstream, Marianas Business Plaza, Mobil Marianas Pacific Trading Co., and Tournament of Champions.

Hole-in-ones were sponsored by IT&E (No. 3/$5,000), Atkins Kroll Saipan (No.7/2020 Toyota Corolla), McDonalds of Saipan Hole (No. 13/$5,000), and Triple J Motors (No. 17/2019 Hyundai Elantra). Other holes were sponsored by Aon Insurance, Bank of Saipan, Island Training Solutions, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, Bridge Capital, MarPac, JZ Group, Budget Car Rental, Matson Navigation, and Docomo Pacific.

The Chamber would like to thank all of the players who came out to support the event, the volunteers from Saipan Young Professionals, Staywell Insurance, Power 99, Saipan Tribune, KSPN, and Marianas Variety. The Chamber would also like to recognize LSG Sky Chefs for providing a complimentary lunch to all the volunteers, the friendly staff at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and the Events Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

This year's golf tournament focused on providing college scholarships to enable the youth of our island to achieve their dreams by pursuing secondary education. This June, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will once again award up to $12,000 in scholarships to deserving students in the high school, college, and vocational levels. ***(PR)***

Paire, CNMI U18 keep undefeated records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club and the CNMI Boys U18 National Team eased past their respective opponents to remain unbeaten in Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League.

Paire shut down TanHoldings, 3-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville to get its fourth win in as many games, while the CNMI U18 earned the same perfect mark following a 14-1 thrashing of Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Sunjoon Tenorio, Sebastian Manabat, Jonathan Capayas, Taka Borja, and John Michael Rojas scored multiple goals for the CNMI U18, which pounded KFAS more in the second half after taking a 5-1 halftime lead. KFAS's lone goal was courtesy of Junsik Kim.

In the Paire-TanHoldings tiff, the former drew goals from three different players. Trey Dunn kicked off Paire's offense with his shot in the 16th minute, while Joe Miller delivered the second goal in the 30th. Danny Agulto closed out for Paire with his goal in the 75th.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Paire Football Club player attacks after breaking free from his defenders during an earlier game against Matansa FC in Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Spring Men's M-League Standings
(As of March 31, 2019)

DIVISION A

Teams	MP	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
NMI U18	4	4	0	0	12	17	2	15
Paire	4	4	0	0	12	15	1	14
TanHoldings	5	3	0	2	9	17	8	9
Kanoa	5	2	1	2	7	17	19	-2
Old B Bank	4	1	0	3	3	3	10	-7
KFAS	4	0	1	3	1	6	21	-15
Matansa	4	0	0	4	0	5	19	-14

DIVISION B

Shirley's	4	3	0	1	9	17	9	8
PIC	5	3	0	2	9	18	16	2
Sun Palace	5	3	0	2	9	15	18	-3
WNT	4	0	0	4	0	6	13	-7

Kanoa 6, Matansa 4

Kanoa took victory No. 2 this season after edging Matansa FC.

The winning team was on target in the first half, firing four goals to gain control of the match. Andruw Omelau drilled a pair with his first goal made in the sixth minute and the second in the 23rd, while Jireh Yobeh hit the board in the 10th, and Ruselle Zapanta knocked in a penalty kick in the 33rd for Kanoa's 4-2 halftime advantage.

Gabriel Arkoh Jr. and Timothy Tawanpiy registered the two goals for Matansa in the first half and had the same production in the second, while Omelau completed the hat trick in the 50th minute for Kanoa's early insurance. Jacky Lee scored Kanoa's other goal in the second half, as they increased their lead to 6-2 before Arkoh and Tawanpiy countered with one goal apiece.

Matansa absorbed back-to-back losses in Week 4 of the league, as it also fell (via forfeiture) to the Old B Bank in last March 28's match.

DIVISION B
Sun Palace 4, PIC 2

Sun Palace stunned erstwhile leader Pacific Islands Club in the lone match played in Division B last Sunday.

Jun Lin tallied two goals to hand Sun Palace its third win—the same number of victories PIC has. Wong Yeong Seo and Fheng Lin Zhi registered the two other goals for Sun Palace, while PIC's goals were courtesy of Albert Bergancia and Bailey Spaeth.

TAGAMAN

From Page 32

jica created Tagaman to bring in off-island athletes and help boost the CNMI's tourism.

Among the athletes lured by Tagaman in the early years were inaugural (1988) champion and three-time winner Ruben Chappins of the U.S., another three-time champ, Hideya Miyazuka of Japan, South Korea's Yu Hun Park, and Saipan's very own Tyce Mister.

All four raced in last weekend's Tagaman with Chappins doing the 60-kilometer bike leg for TRAC 1 and clocking in at 3:14:41. Miyazuka did the solo and was the first finisher (3:40:18) in the 55 to 59 age group. Park, who was responsible for bringing in South Korean triathletes for Tagaman for more than a decade, this time was with his sons Hee Chan and Mang and they completed the relay in 4:25:08.

Mister missed the podium in the 50 to 54 age group, as he finished fifth in his division with a time of 4:08:03, however, he earned the distinction of having the most Tagaman appearances in three decades.

"I think I did more than 25 of the 30. The only times that I did not compete was when I was injured. It's great to be part of this race for a long time," Mister said.

Braxton, Sendin lead Saipan finishers

Meanwhile, race organizers also recognized the top Saipan finishers in last weekend's event.

Charlie Sendin broke the four-hour mark with his 3:56:14 to rank first among Saipan triathletes. He posted 35:40, 1:54:04, and 1:25:48 in the swim, bike, and run legs, respectively, to place fourth in the 30 to 34 age group and No. 31 overall among the 110 solo finishers.

In the women's division, Ayano Braxton was the top Saipan finisher after making it to Kilili Beach in 4:14:17 (split times of 40:19, 2:07:45, and 1:27:13). Braxton also came in at third place in the 40 to 44 age group and No. 43 overall.

SIS

From Page 32

final canto.

In the fourth period, the Phoenix finally drew contributions from other players with Dindo Ferrer knocking in two 3-pointers and a shot in the post and Luke Sobremisana adding 4. Mateo also registered 4 markers, but these were not enough to bring NMIS back in the game and give the team back-to-back wins after prevailing in its debut (versus Seventh Day Adventist).

Meanwhile, Agape swept its double-header against Grace Christian Academy.

In the boys division, the Torchbearers scorched the Eagles, 62-14. Agape also had an easy win in the girls match, 45-20.

SIS 42—Mister 13, Lim 10, Nam 8, Xu 7, Gregoire 2, Christian 2

NMIS 27 —Mateo 15, Ferrer 8, Sobremisana 4.

Scoring by quarters: 12-4. 19-9, 35-11, 42-27

BLUE

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drew its lone goal from Anthony Bergancia. Vivid Blue and TanHoldings fought in the finals after emerging as the Top 2 finishers in the round-robin elimination.

The eventual champions earned a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the elimination round, as it first downed TanHoldings, 2-1, and then defeated MP United B, 1-0, and MP United A, 2-1. Against TanHoldings, Yuto Handa knocked in the pair of goals for Vivid Blue and he also drilled the squad's lone shot in their close win over MP United B. Handa bagged his fourth goal in the tournament after scoring against MP United A and Vivid Blue went on to complete a sweep in the elimination after getting an own goal.

In other matches, TanHoldings also downed MP United A and B, to join Vivid Blue in the finals. Mark Joseph Roque's goal in the third minute lifted TanHoldings to victory over MP United A, while he single-handed demolished MP United B after firing six goals in their 7-0 rout of the hosts. Bergancia delivered the other goal for TanHoldings, which eventually settled for the runner-up honors after being outgunned by Vivid Blue.

Vivid Blue's triumph in Pacific Ocean Cup XI was the club's third in the biannual tournament and first on Saipan soil to match MP United's record. The Japanese group's first victory in the competition it alternately hosts with sister club MP United, was in 2014 during the Pacific Ocean Cup III held in Japan. MP United, on the other hand, ruled Pacific Ocean Cup II, IV and, VII. Nagaoka SSS won the inaugural tournament, while other champions were Pure FC (Pacific Ocean Cup VI), Harasato (Pacific Ocean Cup VIII), and TanHoldings FC (Pacific Ocean Cup IX).

Meanwhile, MP United would like to thank major sponsors Tan Siu Lin Foundation and IT&E for their support. The club also acknowledged Chong's Corp, I Love Saipan, Blue Haus, APEX Remittance, Shirley's Coffee Shop, RNV Construction, Barney's Pizza, Saipan International School, Sparks Athletics, Saipan Ice and Water, and Marianas Visiting Nurses for backing up Pacific Ocean Cup XI.

"It's hard to believe this is our 11th Pacific Ocean Cup. Our relationship with Sachiko Tahara and Vivid Blue Soccer School has been a warm and endearing one and many of our youth players have been able to travel to Japan, meet new friends and experience both international soccer and cultural exchange. We are fortunate to give our U12 and some younger players additional annual opportunities for this friendly soccer competition," MP United president Vickie Izuka said.

"We applaud Vivid Blue for clinching the championship this season since it is their first POC win on Saipan. They rode off the tail of their first win at their hometown of Numazu too last September. Although our MPU teams did not win the Cup, the matches were all very exciting with some games that could have gone either way. We also thank TanHoldings Football Club for joining our tournament. A big thank you too to NMIFA (Northern Mariana Islands Football Association) for allowing us to play on the beautiful pitch. We are very excited to mention that we are now planning for our visit to Japan this year for POC XII,"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vivid Blue players and coaches pose for a photo after their title win over TanHoldings Football Club, 2-1, in the Pacific Ocean Cup XI held last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Centre in Koblerville.

Machado hits 1st homer for Padres in win vs Arizona

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Popovich gone in 63 seconds; Nuggets rout Spurs

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SIS bounces back, tops NMIS

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Saipan International School's Dylan Mister, left, speeds up for a fastbreak play during their game against Northern Marianas International School in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Geckos court in As Lito.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School recovered quickly after outclassing Northern Marianas International School, 42-27, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday.

The Geckos, who bowed to Agape Christian School in their season debut last Wednesday (20-70) this time took off on the right foot at their home turf in As Lito and played no let up against the Phoenix to make it to the win column in their second attempt.

Daniel Nam and Dylan Mister fueled SIS' hot start, as the former netted 8 points and the latter tallied 4 markers. Justin Mateo was the lone scorer for NMIS in the opening quarter with the guard nailing two jumpers. Nam and Mister cut off passing lanes and chased down rebounds and converted these defensive plays into fastbreak points and second-chance opportunities to lift the Geckos to a 12-4 advantage at the end of the first period.

Then in the second quarter, a new pair stepped up for SIS with William Xu nailing a trey and Danny Lim hitting a shot in the post for the Geckos. Mister also scored in the second frame with his fastbreak layup giving SIS a double-digit spread at the break, 19-9.

While three players teamed up for the Geckos in the second canto, NMIS again leaned on Mateo, who accounted for all of the Phoenix's 5 points.

The same story happened when the game resumed with Mateo making the only field goal for NMIS in the third period, as the rest of his teammates were silenced by the Geckos' suffocating defense. On offense, Lim led SIS with his 8 points, while Mister and Xu chipped in 4 each, as the Geckos extended their advantage to 35-11, going into the

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Two in a row for Vivid Blue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vivid Blue made it two in a row after topping the Pacific Ocean Cup XI held last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Centre in Koblerville.

The visiting Japanese football club, which ruled the Pacific Ocean Cup X it hosted in September last year, had a repeat following a 2-1 victory in the finals over TanHoldings Football Club. Hosts MP United FC A and B were the two other teams that joined the biannual competition.

Renjyu Shima and Tsubasa Yamada scored the goals for Vivid Blue in the championship game, while TanHoldings'

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Vivid Blue player, second left, steps into the play to gain possession during their game against MP United Football Club in the Pacific Ocean Cup XI last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Centre in Koblerville.

Tagaman founders, participants honored

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As Tagaman Triathlon celebrated its 30th anniversary last Saturday, it was just fitting that the people behind one of the longest-running triathlon events in the Pacific were recognized.

Tagaman co-founders Bill Sakovich, J.M. Guerrero, Wolf Mojica, and Pacific Development, Inc.'s Yoichi Matsumura made the honor roll with the former receiving a plaque of recognition from 30th Tagaman Triathlon organizer Triathlon Association in the CNMI. Mojica and Matsumura are now based in Hawaii and Japan, respectively, and could not make it to the awards presentation at Kanoa Resort, while TRAC president Ricky Castro personally handed the plaque to Guerrero at the latter's residence in Finasisu.

"After starting Tagaman three decades ago, we're happy that it's still here. We hope that Tagaman will continue and more people will compete here," said Sakovich, who with Guerrero and Mo-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tagaman Triathlon co-founder Bill Sakovich, sixth left, gestures during the awards presentation for the pioneers and participants of the race last Saturday at Kanoa Resort.